

**Cassandra Downs**

*Based on Wurundjeri  
Country - Naarm, AUS  
(Melbourne)*

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Cassandra Downs is a self-taught ceramic artist based in Naarm (Melbourne). She creates distinctive zoomorphic vessels of the unique native fauna of so-called Australia, whilst taking structural and technical influence from Pre-Columbian Peru. Her works are created with sustainably foraged materials, and a focus on traditional processes.

**Artists statement**

Animals taking on unlikely forms is an ancient, enduring concept, and one which has led me to a lifetime of fascination for zoomorphic artifacts and their ethnographic connotations.

Whilst developing my ceramic practice, I came upon the animal vessels of Pre-Columbian Peru, and since then have been driven to depict my native fauna in an emulation of these enigmatic, functional works.

To imbue them with a spirit of their own, I dedicate immense effort and time to each vessel - using traditional techniques, firing styles, and sustainably foraged materials. Their empty nature and evocative, minimalist silhouettes, provides the perfect opportunity for each observer to create their own stories, unbound by neither time, place nor language.

**Studied under**

Nicolas Thomas, Sculptor  
*Paris FRANCE*

**Higher education**

Bachelor of Communication Design  
*Swinburne University of Technology, 2013*

Diploma of Commercial Arts  
*Commercial Arts Training College, 2012*

**Exhibitions**

Footscray Art Prize Shortlist 2021,  
*Footscray Community Arts Center VIC*

**Collections**

Private collection, *Warnambool VIC*  
Private collection, *Melbourne VIC*