

ARTIS

G A L L E R Y

BRONWYNNE CORNISH

b. 1945

Born in Wellington in 1945, Bronwynne Cornish is one of New Zealand's best known ceramic sculptors - throughout a career which spans over forty years.

Cornish's approach towards her sculpture has earned her recognition and critical acclaim as a highly influential contributor to New Zealand ceramics and art education. Her work has been exhibited throughout NZ, where she has had major shows in all the main museums and galleries.

Cornish's work looks at the crossover between animals and people – placing those characteristics in fine balance and emphasising the “wildness” that we have lost in our lives today. She notes “I make work that I hope will create a certain atmosphere, ring a long-lost bell, and help people create their own mythologies.”

Highlights in her career include a solo show at the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki in 2002. This exhibition, titled *Allude*, referenced Cornish's fascination with New Zealand expatriate painter Frances Hodgkins, who in turn, had been fascinated by ceramic art.

Cornish's ceramics are in major public collections throughout New Zealand and overseas – including The Auckland War Memorial Museum, the Dowse Art Museum Wellington, The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wellington, The Wallace Collection Auckland and the Kobayashi Collection in Tokyo.

In 2025, Cornish once again collaborated and exhibited (*'Shadowland'*) with Hamish Foote. These two artists share a long history, both as exhibiting artists and as colleagues at Auckland Unitec.

CAREER HISTORY:

Cornish has exhibited in Japan, Australia and widely throughout New Zealand. She was one of the first clay practitioners to take studio ceramics from “craft galleries” to the major “Art Galleries” of New Zealand.

Early 1960's:	Wellington Polytechnic School of Design.
1968- 1970:	Worked with Helen Mason – well renowned potter and first editor of the New Zealand Potter Magazine.
1971-1978:	Worked on Waiheke Island
1978:	Attended sculpture symposium in Toronto, Canada

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- 1980's: Visiting tutor at the Otago School of Ceramics
Visiting tutor at the Waikato Technical Institute
- 1986: Major Survey Exhibition at the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth
- 1990's : Full-time tutor at Carrington Polytechnic, Auckland.
- 1998: Participated in a clay symposium at Otago Poytechnic
- 1999: Residency Sargeant Gallery Whanganui – Tylee Cottage
- 2008: Residency in New Delhi, India

EXHIBITIONS ARTIS:

- 2025 *Shadowland* – with Hamish Foote
- 2023 *Cloud Cuckoo Land* – with Bridget Bidwill
- 2021 *Ex Animo* – with Bridget Bidwill
- 2019 *Psalm* – with Hamish Foote
- 2017 *Three Part Harmony* – with Bridget Bidwill & JS Parker

AWARDS:

- 1993: Fletcher Challenge Ceramic Award
- 1987: Fletcher Challenge Ceramic Award