

## John Lawrence

born Essex U.K.

1957 Diploma of Arts and Crafts. London.

1958 National Diploma of Design in Ceramics.

Up to 1956 John Lawrence had worked in ceramic studies in England, France and Finland. From 1958-64 he was head of the Ceramics Department at the Luton School of Art in the U.K. He emigrated to New Zealand with his wife Ann Verdcourt in 1965. After a period of teaching he established a pottery studio in Dannevirke and from 1974 he was operating it full-time –making a wide range of domestic ware to support a growing family.

In 1993, Lawrence was the recipient of an Arts Council travel award, making three video tapes of studio pottery together with videos of student shows and museum collections in Europe. In 1995 there was a complete change in Lawrence's approach, partly an influence of various artists such as Ewen Henderson, Gordon Crook and Ben Nicholson.

In New Zealand he became immersed in the multi-cultural Pacific influences and the many experiences of a new landscape with visual evidence of volcanic upheaval, land profiles, cuttings and new materials.

Lawrence is now occupied with qualities caused by excessive heat and erosion. To emulate these qualities he has developed techniques using stained grogs and materials such as coke, rust scales, impregnated sawdust and oxides. The first results of these experiments were shown in a solo exhibition at the Dowse Art Museum in 1997.

In 2000 he visited Ken Clark in the UK. This meeting was to discuss the inclusion of photographs and text relating to Lawrence's paper clay panels for Clark's *Tile Book* which is to be launched in Wellington in April this year.

In April 2001, Lawrence had a solo exhibition at the James Mack Gallery in Featherston of both panels and vessel forms. Some of the forms were a series inspired by boat wrecks left on Pacific Island beaches.

Lawrence was awarded a nine month Creative New Zealand for 'new work'. These experimental pieces make use of new additive materials to the clay such as polyester fibre, diced cotton and fibre-glass.

To achieve the paper-thin laminations on the surface of the work Lawrence uses paper-clay. A technique of great potential but with certain health risks. Owing to the nature of paper-clay his work is handbuilt from oxide impregnated clay shapes with overlying colour laminations in the form of sharp images.

In September until November 2002 Lawrence had an exhibition of some 50 paperclay vessels together with some wall installations at the Te Manawa Art gallery Palmerston North NZ.

At the Dowse Art Gallery in Lower Hutt NZ Lawrence had an exhibition of about 30 paperclay ceramic forms and several wall installations. This ran from April until June 2003 with about 30% new work.

*My work is full of images and symbols, some consciously influenced by landscape, industrial patterns, and early art school heraldic and manuscript studies. Other images unconsciously appear. These gifts are gratefully received.*

*New Zealand immersed me in multicultural influences, and many new experiences of the landscape with evidence of recent volcanic upheaval and degradation by sometimes violent natural forces.*

*Like all the Arts, ceramics have always been used for expressing ideas and protests about environmental, social, political issues etc. Over the last few years a lot of my work has been part of this.*

## John Lawrence continued

The exhibition 'John Lawrence ceramics... a new departure' was moved from The Dowse to Aratoi Gallery in Masterton. this ran from 16th July - 7th Sept 2003.

Norsewear Art awards . April 2003 Acceptance.

The Portage Ceramic awards, Lopdell House. Auckland 2003. Two pieces were accepted for this exhibition.

October. 13th-28th. Solo exhibition of 11 ceramic forms at Masterworks, Auckland.

Norsewear Ar Award. April 2004. Group of five modelled figures entitled 'Trophies 1'

2004

December 4th-22nd. Barrows gallery. Martinborough. Solo exhibition of 15 works.

2005

August 26th-15th September.. Exhibition of figure groups and masks. Thermostat gallery PN. Acceptance for Portage Exhibition. Auckland.

2006

September. Exhibit in Portage Ceramic Awards. Pieces in 'Narural Selection 2' Waiheke Island.

2007

23rd June - 11th July. Solo exhibition of Ceramics. Northart gallery. Auckland  
August 11th - 30th Exhibition of New Painting. Thermostat gallery, PN.

## DEALER GALLERIES

QUADRANT GALLERY. DUNEDIN.

AVID GALLERY. WELLINGTON.

THERMOSTAT GALLERY. PN.

QUAY GALLERY. NAPIER.

## WORKS IN PERMANENT COLLECTIONS.

THE DOWSE ART MUSEM. WELLINGTON.

TE MANAWA GALLERY. PN.