

TOI MOROKI
—
CENTRE OF
CONTEMPORARY
ART

26 February –
7 May

Tender Brick: The Material Epiphanies of Peter Hawkesby

A pair of far-flung moments in history set the conditions for the exhibition *Tender Brick: The Material Epiphanies of Peter Hawkesby*. The first was when Picasso used glue to make constructions that irrevocably altered the conception of sculpture as a form of 'carving' or 'modelling' of a singular form. The second is the audacious choice Hawkesby made during the mid 1970s to entirely dispense with the potter's wheel and make ceramics by any other means.

In seeking sudden relief from the wheel's tyranny of symmetry, Hawkesby gave credence to clay as a means of expression, rather than ceramics as a discipline. From here, the artist has consistently defied the strictures prescribing his medium, and in doing so has fashioned an individual approach to the making of craft within the context of Aotearoa, unlike anything encountered previously.

The exhibition's title salutes Gertrude Stein's 1914 publication *Tender Buttons*, a work considered a triumph of unorthodox Modernist experiment on one hand and decried as pretentious posturing on the other. Academic roadkill or scholarly redemption, the polarisation around Stein's achievement compares to the reception Hawkesby's ceramic art has received over the years. Stein's insistence on the primacy of 'looking' unencumbered by the preconceptions of language is consistent with Hawkesby's insistence on the incomparability of 'touch'.

The exhibition *Tender Brick* tracks the range and depth of Hawkesby's ceramic production since his return to full-time making in 2016. The most recent works included see Hawkesby return to a mode of practice that he briefly entertained during the early 1980s; low fired ceramics using a variety of clay bodies punctuated with readily available commercial glazes, colour guaranteed. More variation than mutation, these multi coloured wares demonstrate the wellspring of enthusiasm that is Hawkesby's sensibility.

Tender Brick is part of CoCA Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki's programme partnership with Objectspace, which sees the organisations work together to develop and present exhibitions.

Tender Brick: The Material Epiphanies of Peter Hawkesby

Tender Brick is made possible with support from:

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|---|--|---|
| 1 <i>Minzy Teapot and Cup</i>
White raku with porcelain insets and glazes | 13 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Vase IV</i>
White raku and terracotta | 25 <i>Finn McCool's Finger</i>
White raku and glazes |
| 2 <i>Ms Momoyama</i>
Porcelain and stoneware / terracotta mix | 14 <i>Languid Loops on Tiles</i>
White raku and glazes | 26 <i>Silk Pyjamas</i>
White raku, glazes and acrylic |
| 3 <i>MNVWZ #6</i>
Porcelain and white raku | 15 <i>Cups</i>
White raku, terracotta and glazes | 27 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Teapot III</i>
White raku and terracotta |
| 4 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Vase III</i>
White raku and terracotta | 16 <i>Blunted Devil Circus</i>
White raku and glazes | 28 <i>Incinerator with Three Steps</i>
White raku and glazes |
| 5 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Teapot I</i>
White raku and terracotta | 17 <i>Stobos on the Road (to Kingston)</i>
White raku with found Brickwork Bay pieces | 29 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Vase II</i>
White raku and terracotta |
| 6 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Teapot II</i>
White raku and terracotta | 18 <i>Rashington Palace III</i>
White raku, glazes and acrylic | 30 <i>Nasturtium Dance</i>
White raku, clay plug, acrylic and glazes |
| 7 <i>Demolition Tick 1</i>
White raku and found brick | 19 <i>Fan and Shields</i>
White raku, glazes and acrylic | 31 <i>Open Incinerator</i>
White raku, inset porcelain, black clay, glazes and slip |
| 8 <i>Black Doris Tick</i>
White raku and glazes | 20 <i>Languid Loops with Pale Green Tick</i>
White raku, black clay and glazes | 32 <i>Modern Ming with Slippers / Vase I</i>
White raku and terracotta |
| 9 <i>Garden Gate</i>
White raku, acrylic and glazes | 21 <i>Tie My Legs!</i>
White raku, Waiheke swamp clay, found brick, glazes and acrylic | |
| 10 <i>Untitled with Pink Tick</i>
White raku, Chinese hollow bricks, glazes and acrylic | 22 <i>Blunted Devil Cup #1</i>
White raku and glazes | |
| 11 <i>Languid Loops with Yellow Tick</i>
White raku, glazes and acrylic | 23 <i>Blunted Devil Cup #5</i>
White raku and glazes | |
| 12 <i>Black and White Ticks with Grey Fan</i>
White raku and glazes | 24 <i>Blunted Devil Cup #4</i>
White raku and glazes | |

All works made 2016–2021

With thanks to Michael Prosee and Leigh Melville

