

Pam Maegdefrau



My earliest memories are from my Grandparents garden. Their Persimmon tree provided my first conscious experience of colour; creating patterns from Autumn leaves. I loved their cool green house, discovering little secrets; delicate ferns and tiny native orchids.

My father was a Natural Historian; every family holiday was about 'being in the bush'. Of course I studied Biology; ultimately working with animals in scientific & medical research.

Increasingly absorbed with the why and the where, I became obsessed with overseas travel, a sort-of-gypsy for 10 years. A new life in ceramics was one result. Suddenly I HAD to become a potter and returned home to Australia.

I started late and was in a hurry. I threw myself into studying & exhibiting in Brisbane. Then teaching; with the Aus. Flying Arts: Kelvin Grove BCAE: Southbank TAFE. And I became a passionate advocate for ceramic artists.

Perhaps inspired by 10 years of travel, primitive firings fascinated me. I learnt to master the techniques, sometimes almost controlling the results. My first 'bisque firing' was in a pit. Eventually I discovered porcelain. I loved the lightness, the clarity of colour, the smoothness of texture, the way I could make the glazes shine!

Being able to Raku-fire porcelain brought everything together for me. I love simplicity of form and surface. I design and make my own plaster moulds. For Raku-fired work, I throw or I slip-cast. These are the strongest forms that will survive the rigors of the Raku-firing.

I wear many hats in my Hinterland life. I love being engaged in my community. I've planted a small rainforest on our land and for 12 years my primary artwork has been creating this garden. It supports an amazing diversity of wildlife and gives us great joy.

Now spending more time in my studio, I combine my love of ceramics and my Hinterland life. My imagery is about the mists, the colours, the patterns of the rainforest vegetation. And the madness of the relentless weeds which can dominate our summer months.