

utopia art sydney



Brett Stone

Claypan

Press Release

Dates: 5 - 26 February

The Colours of Australia

The infinitely subtle range of colours in the landscape of Australia are brought to life in artist Brett Stone's 'Claypan' exhibition at Utopia Art Sydney opening Feb 5. It is Stone's first solo exhibition at Utopia Art Sydney.

"Originally from Western Australia, Stone has flown across Australia many times, constantly looking at the shapes and formations of the country. This exhibition is what Brett saw. Claypan's bowls and stacks capture the range of colour you see in our landscape; from deep, glowing, shiny black to slight, delicate shades of opalescent aqua" Christopher Hodges, Executive Director Utopia Art Sydney said announcing the exhibition, "and everything in between."

"Brett shows us Sydney salt pans, tea tree lakes, shallow, wide outback dams. He's created a range of sun burnt, earth colored bowls with touches of glaze licking and swirling their insides. This is landscape evoked"

"An exhibition focus is Brett's 'Finite Fountain. Fountains celebrate power and abundance; they are the centerpiece of most towns.

"Fountains were also a central part of the 1800's Sydney Garden Palace. Burnt down in a major fire, the fountains were eventually rescued and are now in the Powerhouse Museum collection. So Stone has made his modernist fountain a visually powerful symbol of Australian life and abundance: but also emptiness and preservation. In this 'Finite Fountain' his shapes and colours mix and talk wildly to each other. It's an astonishing and unique work"

Responding to Stone's ceramics are abstract works on paper by Christopher Hodges. These pieces echo and amplify the circles and landscape that Stone's bowls create. Some read as wide flat works, most use ochres and browns with circles to stretch our visual understanding of the ceramics interspersed between them. The combination is irresistible

"Ceramic is a product of deep imagination and slow evolution of the hand and eye. Brett Stone's hands have produced the most lovingly defined, carefully crafted bowls; his understanding of glazes and their exquisite colours have links and echoes of artistic practice and ideas that stretch back through Australian ceramic lineage.

"A show not to be missed." Hodges concluded.



We're in the gallery so give us a call and we will organise everything, at a critical distance!

press are welcome for a preview in the gallery

Christopher Hodges is available for interview for further information and images contact Allana McAfee
email: art@utopiaartsydney.com.au
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images **top**: Brett Stone, Tidal Pool VI, stoneware, 10 pieces, 8 x 11 cm stacked **above**: Brett Stone, Salt Pool Shelf I, stoneware, 18 pieces various dimensions **below**: installation view of the series 'Claypan'



About Utopia Art Sydney.

Utopia Art Sydney is a leading Australian contemporary art gallery.

Opened in 1988, Utopia Art Sydney represents Australia's most prominent contemporary artists including Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Brett Stone, John R. Walker, Yukultji Napangati, Angus Nivison, Liz Coats, Tony Coleing.

Utopia Art Sydney began and sustained the career of Australia's greatest artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye, from her emergence through to her death, including at the Venice Biennale and retrospectives in Australia and Japan.

Utopia Art Sydney artists are always part of major showcase exhibitions including the Venice Biennale and Biennale of Sydney; and strongly represented in Australia's most significant public and private collections and gallery artists Peter Maloney, Kylie Stillman, Marea Gazzard, David Aspden, Richard and Pat Larter and Kati Watson shape and define the look and feel of Australian art.

Gallery Director Christopher Hodges is a leading Australian artist with a long established career.



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