

Press Release

# Glenn Barkley 'itsallright'

Utopia Art Sydney, 2 Danks Street, Waterloo, 2017

When: 26 October - 19 November, 2016

Opening: Wednesday, 26th October, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Gallery hours: Tues - Sat, 10 - 5 pm

Admission: FREE

Utopia Art Sydney is proud to present Glenn Barkley's first solo exhibition.

After a meteoric career as an artist over the past three years, including his installation at the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art earlier this year, Barkley's recognition by collectors and curators, as well as other ceramic artists is well deserved.

"Two years ago Barkley was a full-time curator, but with this display he seems to have completed a metamorphosis into a creative dynamo."  
John McDonald review of Adelaide Biennial, SMH, 10/3/2106

Drawing upon classical and oriental forms and decoration, his ceramic pieces are joyful and dramatic.

Barkley says, "Most of my work is a response to the things around me, to popular song, the garden, conversations I have with people about art and the internet. I am still completely embedded in the art world and I think these pots are like messages that can be read in the future – Ars longa vita brevis."

Barkley's collages, photographs cut from the pages of old books on ceramics or landscaping, play with scale and bling, dragging motifs from one aeon onto ceramics of another, often overlaid with drawn botanical shapes and text.

Some works are emblazoned with lyrics from his favourite songs, or with hidden missives of philosophical whimsy, whilst others quote from the modern phenomena of twitter and instagram, forums where people can rant in relative anonymity.

His passion for ceramics extends to his roles as curator, judge, writer and speaker, all of which has helped the current resurgence of ceramics in Australian art.

The first solo exhibition is a right of passage for any artist, and this is a challenge that Glenn Barkley has met met head on. Don't miss this exciting show which is the climax of an already amazing year for the artist.

