

CV_Varuni Kanagasundaram

FULL NAME: S. Varuni Kanagasundaram
ADDRESS: PO Box 594, Diamond Creek, VIC 3089, Australia
E-MAIL: varunikceramics@gmail.com
NATIONALITY: New Zealand (Aotearoa) and Australian citizen, Sri Lankan born

EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION

2015-current Professional artist –Sculpture/Fine Art exhibitions, Community-Engaged Art, Performance Art, Curation
2019-current Sessional lecturer/tutor/assessor, Art History Theory Culture BFA course and Curating contemporary art/Expanded curating MA course, School of Art, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
2016- 2018 Project Manager/Teaching Coordinator - Establish Ceramic Facility Clay Talk at Montsalvat, Vic 3095
2014-2015 Lecturing Assistant/Technical staff, Ceramics Studio, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
2025 PhD in Art, RMIT University, Australia
2013 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honours (First class) - Ceramics, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
2012 Bachelor of Fine Arts – Ceramics with Distinction, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- *Performing the Material Poetics of Migration*, The Stables, Meat Market, North Melbourne, VIC, Aug 20-25, 2024
- *The Vivid Vernacular Cosmopolitans*, Glen Eira City Council Gallery, VIC, Jan 24-Feb 11, 2018
- *Roaming of the Vivids*, Yering Station Art Gallery, Yarra Glen, VIC, Aug 8-Sept 16, 2018
- *Sangam of the In-Betweens*, Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Access Gallery, Bundoora, VIC, Nov 4-29, 2015

SOCIALLY-ENGAGED ART & PERFORMATIVE ART

- *Message in Material Gesture*, The Stables, Meat Market, North Melbourne, VIC, Aug 22, 2024
- *Material Poetics of Memories*, Sovereignty Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, Sept-Nov, 2024
- *Messages that Link Ritual Kolam Drawing* public artwork, Ellis Courtyard, RMIT, Melbourne, Vic, July 29, 2022
- *Threshold Crossings*, PlaceLab Brunswick, RMIT University, Vic, Australia, Sept-December, 2022
- *Messages that Link Us Ritual Kolam Drawing* public artwork, Moreland City Council, Vic, Oct 2021 - Feb, 2022
- *A Cup Across the Fence*, Magnetic Places public Art Project, Penrith City Council, NSW, July-November, 2020
- *Journey of 1000 Chai Cups*, MoreArt Festival, The Magic of the North, Moreland City Council, Vic, Nov 11- Dec 15, 2019
- *A Message for Her*, Social Engagement Platform, Santa Fe Art Institute, New Mexico, USA, Feb 22, 2019
- *A Welcome Beneath your Feet*, MoreArt Festival 2017, Brunswick Campus, Vic, Oct 12-Nov 12, 2018
- *Kolam Borders*, Anderson Ranch Art Centre Residency, Colorado, USA, Feb-April, 2016

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026
- *Reading Her Traces*, Women of the Badlands Exhibition, Barn Gallery, Montsalvat, Eltham, Vic. Feb 5-Mar
- 2025
- *Bhumi Mother Listens*, NCECA Multicultural Fellows Exhibition, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, Mar 7-May 3
- 2024
- *Ancestral Calling I and II*, NCECA Multicultural Fellows Exhibition, Black History Museum and Cultural Centre of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, USA, Mar 20-Aug 17
 - *Material Poetics of Diaspora*, Sovereignty Residency exhibition, Santa Fe Art Institute, New Mexico, USA, Nov 14
- 2023
- *Throughlines*, ceramic group exhibition, Barn Gallery, Montsalvat, Eltham, Vic, July 14-Aug 20
 - *Materiality in Dialogue* (artist & curator, group exhibition of female artists from Australia and North America), Divisions Gallery, Coburg, Vic, July 14-Aug 13
- 2022
- *Messages that Link Us Ritual Kolam Drawing* public artwork supported by Moreland City Council, Press Against Time Group Exhibition, Divisions Gallery, Pentridge, Coburg, Vic, Jan 27–Feb 20
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts & Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition and Awards, Yarra Glen, Vic, Feb 27-Apr 3
- 2021
- *Emergence* Exhibition, Divisions Gallery, Pentridge, Coburg, Vic, Nov 26-Jan 16
 - *Something Happened Here Journey of 1000 Chai cups* in the exhibition *The new(ab)normal*, RMIT Gallery, Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic, June 18-Oct 16
 - *Messages that Link Us Ritual Kolam Drawing*, public Art community engagement, Pentridge, Coburg, Vic, Dec 15

- Multicultural Fellowship Exhibition, 2021 NCECA conference, Cincinnati, USA
 - *Ceramix*, TACA Annual Exhibition, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, NSW, May 14- June 20
- 2020
- NCECA Annual Exhibition, *The Burdens of History*, Glave Kocen Gallery, Richmond, Virginia, USA, March 1–31
 - *Objects of Love* Exhibition, NGV Melbourne Design week, Craft Victoria, Watsons Place, Melbourne, Mar 12-May 13
 - Kanagasundaram V (29 June 2020). *Something Happened Here_Journey of 1000 Chai cups* in the exhibition *The new(ab)normal*, RMIT Gallery, Swanston Street, Melbourne, June 18-16 Oct 16
 - *A Cup Across the Fence*, Magnetic Places public Art Project, Penrith City Council, NSW, July-November
 - Finalist, Incinerator Art Award, Incinerator Gallery, Aberfeldie, Moonee Ponds, Vic 3040, Aug 28-Nov 1
- 2019
- *A Message for Her*, Social Engagement Platform, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, Feb 22
 - Creative Gippsland, Bass Coast Shire Artist in Residence for project with community, Rescue Station Arts Inc, Vic, Australia
 - Exhibition ‘Truth and Reconciliation’ Artists in Residence, Santa Fe Art Institute, New Mexico, USA, Sept (Ex, SEA)
 - Finalist, Moreland Summer show Language and Liberty, Counihan Gallery, Brunswick, Melbourne, Australia, Oct (Ex)
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2019, Yarra Glen, VIC, Oct – Dec
- 2018
- Cross Pollination 2018 Textile and Fibre Art Exhibition Journeys, Red Rock Theatre and Gallery, VIC, June 30-July 29
 - *Journey of 1000 Chai Cups*, MoreArt Public Art Festival, The Magic of the North, Moreland City Council, VIC, Nov 11- Dec 15
 - Finalist, Noel Counihan Commemorative Art Award/2018 Moreland Summer Show, Counihan Gallery, VIC, Nov 17-Dec15
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2018, Yarra Glen, VIC, Oct – Dec
- 2017
- Inaugural Gippsland Sculpture Exhibition, ARC Yinnar Gallery, Yinnar, VIC 3869, Apr 1-May 27
 - *Not for Sale*: Online Exhibition, 7th Issue of Garland Magazine, World Craft Council
 - Finalist, Brisbane Art Prize, Judith Wright Center of Contemporary Arts, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, Qld, Oct 12-27
 - *A Welcome Beneath your Feet*, MoreArt Public Art Festival 2017, Brunswick Campus, VIC, Oct 12-Nov 12
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2017, Yarra Glen, VIC, Oct 22 – Dec 5
- 2016
- Artist in Residence, Open Studio, Anderson Ranch Art Centre, Colorado, USA
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2016, Yarra Glen, VIC, Oct 23 – Dec 6
- 2015
- *Intimate Immensities*: Online Exhibition, 1st Issue of Garland Magazine, World Craft Council
 - Finalist, Toorak Village Small Sculpture Exhibition, Toorak Village, City of Stonnington, VIC 3142, May 1- June 14
 - *BeLonging* Exhibition, Australian Ceramics Triennale, School of Art Foyer Gallery, ANU, Canberra, June 27– July 11
 - Finalist, Manningham ceramic art award, Manningham Gallery, 687 Doncaster Rd, VIC, July 15 – Aug 29
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2015, Yarra Glen, VIC, Oct 25–Dec 6
- 2014
- Finalist, Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award 2014, Deakin University Art Gallery, Vic, Oct 30–Dec 13
 - Finalist, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Award and Exhibition 2014, Yarra Glen, Vic, Oct 26 – Dec 7
 - Finalist, The Nillumbik Art Prize 2014, Barn Gallery, Montsalvat, Eltham, Vic, June 5–Aug 10

ART RESIDENCIES

Santa Fe Art Institute Residency, ‘Sovereignty’, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, Sept-Nov 2024
 Artist and researcher in Residence, PlaceLab Brunswick, RMIT University, Australia, 2022
 Creative Gippsland, Bass Coast Shire Artist in Residence, Rescue Station Arts Inc, Wonthaggi, Victoria, Australia, 2019
 Santa Fe Art Institute Residency, ‘Truth & Reconciliation’, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, Feb-Mar, Nov 2019
 Anderson Ranch Art Residency, Anderson Ranch Art Centre, Colorado, USA, Feb-April 2016

AWARDS

Yering Station Gallery Award, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards, Yarra Glen, Victoria, Oct 2017
 RMIT Artland Award, RMIT and Moreland City Council, Victoria, Oct 2017
 Multicultural Fellowship, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), USA, March 2016
 Fehily Contemporary Sculpture Prize, Yarra Valley Arts/Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards, Oct 2015
 Presidential Scholarship, 2013 and 2014, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Colorado, USA
 Vice Chancellor’s List for Academic Excellence in 2013, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
 Award for excellence in BFA Honours and top 2013 Honours student for Object Based Practice, RMIT University

GRANTS

Cultural Visions Grant, ‘Messages that Link, Kolam Ritual Drawing’, RMIT University, Melbourne, 2021
 Magnetic Places Grant, Penrith City Council, New South Wales, ‘A Cup Across the Fence’, 2020
 Flourish Recovery Grant, Creative Neighbours, ‘Messages that Link Us, Kolam Ritual Drawing’, Moreland City Council, 2020
 MoreArt public art Festival special commission, ‘Journey of 1000 Chai cups’, Moreland City Council, Victoria, Sept-December 2018

Art Start Grant, Australia Council for the Arts, Surrey Hills, New South Wales, Australia, 2014
Mobility grant, New York City Study tour, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 2012