

PETRUS SPRONK

From the dark into the light

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 31 October - 19 November 2017
28 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066
Open 7 days 10am to 6pm



'My new series of work is concerned with the magic of the firing process. With this work it is the firing process in the wood-fired kiln where the emphasis lies. The enriching of a surface imbued with flame and smoke markings. Extracting from the kiln its visual magic. Enhancing the work with Kiln mysteries. Painting the surface of the bowl with a brush loaded with fire and smoke, creating landscape images in its primal form. Returning to the source. Always returning to the source. Something raw with something refined. And there lies the necessary tension in the work.' Petrus Spronk, 2017

From the dark into the light showcases the masterful technical ability and deeply poetic visual language of Victorian ceramicist, Petrus Spronk. Spronk has been exhibiting nationally and internationally for more than four decades and is highly celebrated for a number of public sculpture commissions, including the iconic *Architectural Fragment* which emerges from the pavement outside the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne.

Spronk's current exhibition presents in one magnificent installation, four distinct series of work.

The black fired, burnished series of bowls or *Black Holes in Space* and the dark smoked works comprising the *Inner Landscape* series represent the 'dark' aspect of Spronk's work, which are beautifully juxtaposed by his recent series of broken and restored works in *The Magic of the Forest* and *The Forest Fragments* series, which represent the 'light'.

'Since I am interested in a primitive way of making (meaning close to the source), I gather my wood from the forest, the place where I live and fire my earth kiln. Wood also allows me to be totally involved in the firing process. One has to be here in this very moment, present. I work with wood as the result of my beginnings. I had no funds. I made do with that which was close at hand. I made a kiln from earth and sourced wood from the forest. This provided my work with a distinct quality which has lasted till today. I have been making bowls for about 35 years and each bowl is still a challenge (otherwise why bother). And each bowl is also a step along the ceramic path, which, in this way, has created itself into an amazing journey.

A journey rich in discoveries (and isn't that the point).'

From the dark into the light is current until 19 November 2017.

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