



CURATORIAL+CO.

20-30 SEPTEMBER

# ALICHIA VAN RHIJN

## SWEET SPOT



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Alichia van Rhijn presents SWEET SPOT—a collection of vibrant ceramic sculptural works that reference recent personal experiences and struggles, alongside early memories of childhood both before her immigration to Australia from South Africa, and her time in her adopted homeland.

Several pieces in the new series can be seen as self-portraits, or frozen moments in time, alluding to memories of current and past experiences, while some present as material embodiments of specific events. These works take the form of 'rattles' asking to be held, interacted with and listened to.

The forms embody a combination of joy, pain, heartache, acceptance and perseverance. Overwhelming exhaustion and sadness are interspersed with moments of success and pure joy. Finding these moments or 'sweet spots' to keep going through adversity, underpins the dialogue between the multi-faceted elements and anthropomorphic forms. They are in a constant state of flux—shifting and changing as they span the fluidity of time.

These forms investigate phenomenological notions, alluding to personal and shared experience, memory, nostalgia and trauma. Through the use of distilled minimalist forms, van Rhijn's symbolic and ritualistic totems are arranged throughout the gallery space, initiating pause and contemplation.

"I use my practice as a means of therapy and reflection, and it functions as a way for me to filter and make sense of the world around me. The themes and subjects I explore can come through me and then be embodied within my sculptural forms. Some pieces are a reminder to empty myself into my work and process everything through it. The act of making and manifesting ideas into form can be very cleansing.

"Other forms provide a gentle nudge to reassess and make new dreams from the broken pieces and are a physical embodiment of a daily mantra I have tried to instil in the last few months, especially when I have felt overwhelmed or needed a moment to calm my racing mind."

~ ALICHIA VAN RHIJN, SEPTEMBER 2023



*"Joyous are the days of sorrow and sadness,  
For they remind us to see the little things.  
The tiny minutiae  
The beauty in the ordinary  
The everyday  
A life without sorrow is a life not fully lived.  
Embrace the sadness, for it heightens the joy."*





*Count to Three #1, 2023*  
Glazed earthenware  
10.5cm H x 7cm W x 10.5cm D  
\$450



*Count to Three #2, 2023*  
Glazed earthenware  
10.5cm H x 7cm W x 10.5cm D  
\$450



*Count to Three #3, 2023*  
Glazed earthenware  
10.5cm H x 7cm W x 10.5cm D  
\$450





*The Cross You Bear*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware  
19cm H x 20.5cm W x 19cm D  
\$1200



*Flowers Never Bend in the Rain*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware  
48cm H x 19cm W x 19cm D  
\$2900



*Ground Yourself, 2023*  
Glazed earthenware + composite gold  
25cm H x 30cm W x 14cm D  
\$2100





*Harlequin Dreamer*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware + composite gold  
26cm H x 18.5cm W x 18.5cm D  
\$1500



*One Step at a Time, 2023*  
Glazed earthenware + composite gold  
29.5cm H x 6.5cm W x 6.5cm D  
\$650





*Peals of Laughter*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware  
10.5cm H x 9cm W x 9cm D  
\$550



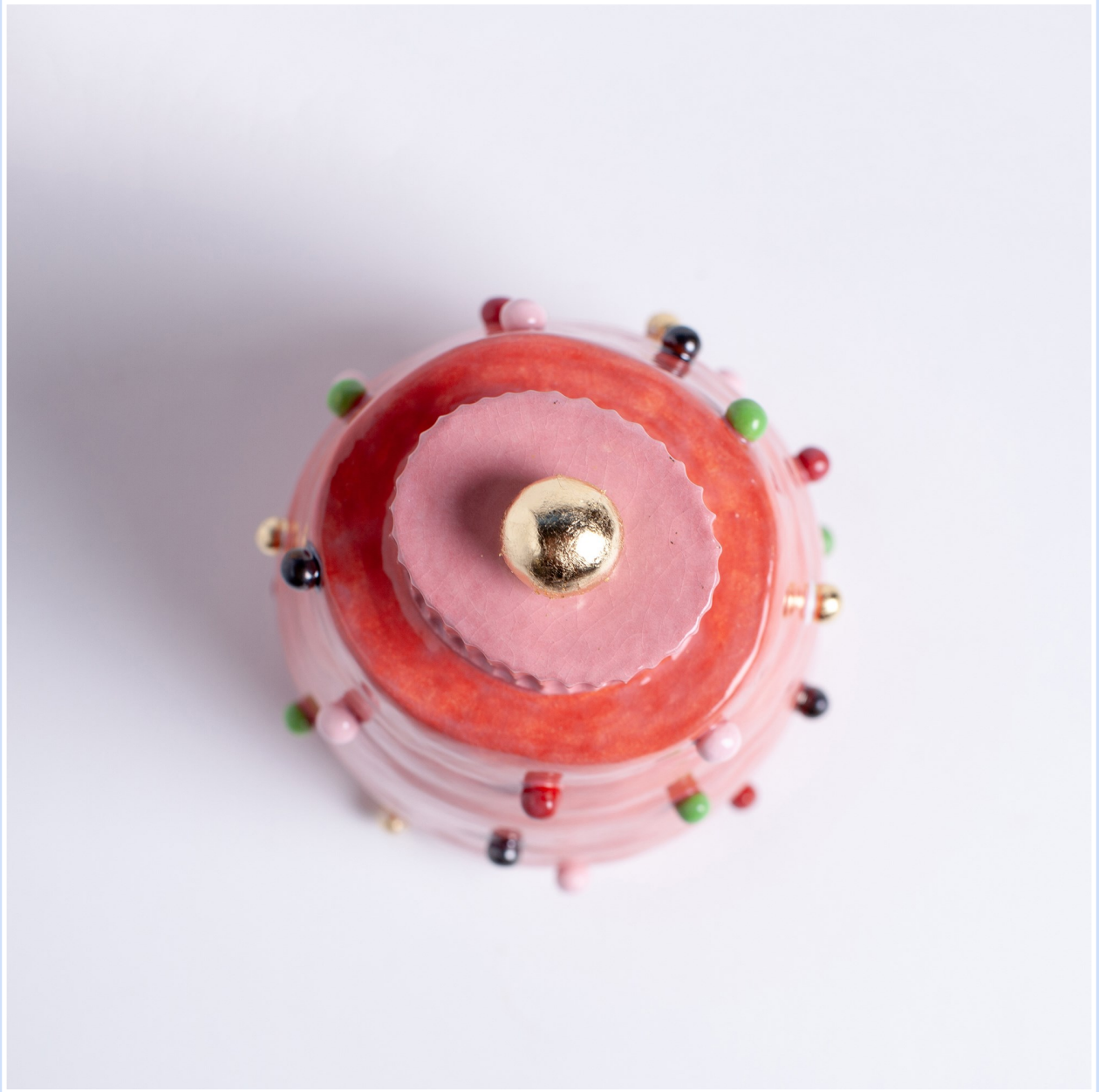
*Push the Sky Away*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware  
33.5cm H x 22cm W x 22cm D  
\$2200



*Loops (Tent)*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware + composite gold  
39cm H x 17cm W x 17cm D  
\$2500



*Stacks On*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware  
47.5cm H x 18cm W x 18cm D  
\$2900





*Sore Spots*, 2023  
Glazed earthenware + composite gold  
23cm H x 15cm W x 13.5cm D  
\$1200



**CURATORIAL+CO.**

ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

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Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.