



CURATORIAL+CO.

Marks *Tracks* Traces

Katarina Wells

21 October – 7 November 2026

KATARINA WELLS



Katarina Wells has worked with ceramics for almost 30 years, moving between fine porcelain, paper clay and heavily textured stoneware. She is drawn to organic sculptural forms and finds inspiration in the natural bounty that surrounds her. Wells' practice is shaped by wabi-sabi, which is the philosophy of finding beauty in the imperfect, impermanent and incomplete. She uses clay to map the physical evidence of existence: layers of compressed sediment, leaves decaying into the earth, animal tracks fading in the sand, tangled seaweed washed ashore.

Most pieces 'grow' slowly over a period of up to a week, a process that allows her to step back and observe where a piece intends to go. Raw oxides and porcelain slip leave the tactile surface intact, while repeated glaze firings build irregular, unpredictable depths that echo the textures of the earth. Vitrified clay holds these weathered moments – a monument to the ephemeral.

Katarina Wells (b. 1969) is an Austrian-born ceramic sculptor who lives and works from her studio in Clareville on Sydney's Northern Beaches. She completed a studio ceramics course at TAFE in 2000 and has grown her practice since. She was a finalist in the Northern Beaches Art Prize in 2017 and 2018 and has presented four solo exhibitions with Curatorial+Co. since 2019.

Marks, Tracks, and Traces

This body of work aims to explore the quiet passage of time through the lens of wabi-sabi, which is the philosophy of finding beauty in the imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete. Inspired by transient moments in nature, I use clay to map the physical evidence of existence: layers of compressed sediment, leaves decaying into the earth, animal tracks fading in the sand, and tangled seaweed washed ashore. Even the fleeting reflection of the sky in a muddy rain puddle is captured, freezing a temporary state into a tangible, permanent form.

To convey these natural processes of accumulation and erosion, many of my pieces undergo multiple glaze firings. This repetitive exposure to heat builds irregular, unpredictable visual depths and echoes organic textures that mimic the earth itself. By preserving these weathered moments in vitrified clay, the work aims to serve as a monument to the ephemeral, reminding us of the profound elegance found in things that are changing, rustic, and deeply marked by time.

Katarina Wells, 2026



Sediment I, 2026
mid-fire clay, glazes, slips, terra siggillata, stainless steel
169 x 30 x 30 cm
AUD 7,500



Sediment II, 2026
mid-fire clay, glazes, slips, oxides, aluminium, plywood plinth
178 x 40 x 40 cm
AUD 7,500



Enveloped, 2026
mid-fire ceramic, porcelain slip, stainless steel
161 x 46 x 46 cm
AUD 7,900



Terrain, 2026
mid-fire clay, porcelain slip, glaze
56 x 44 x 44 cm
AUD 2,900

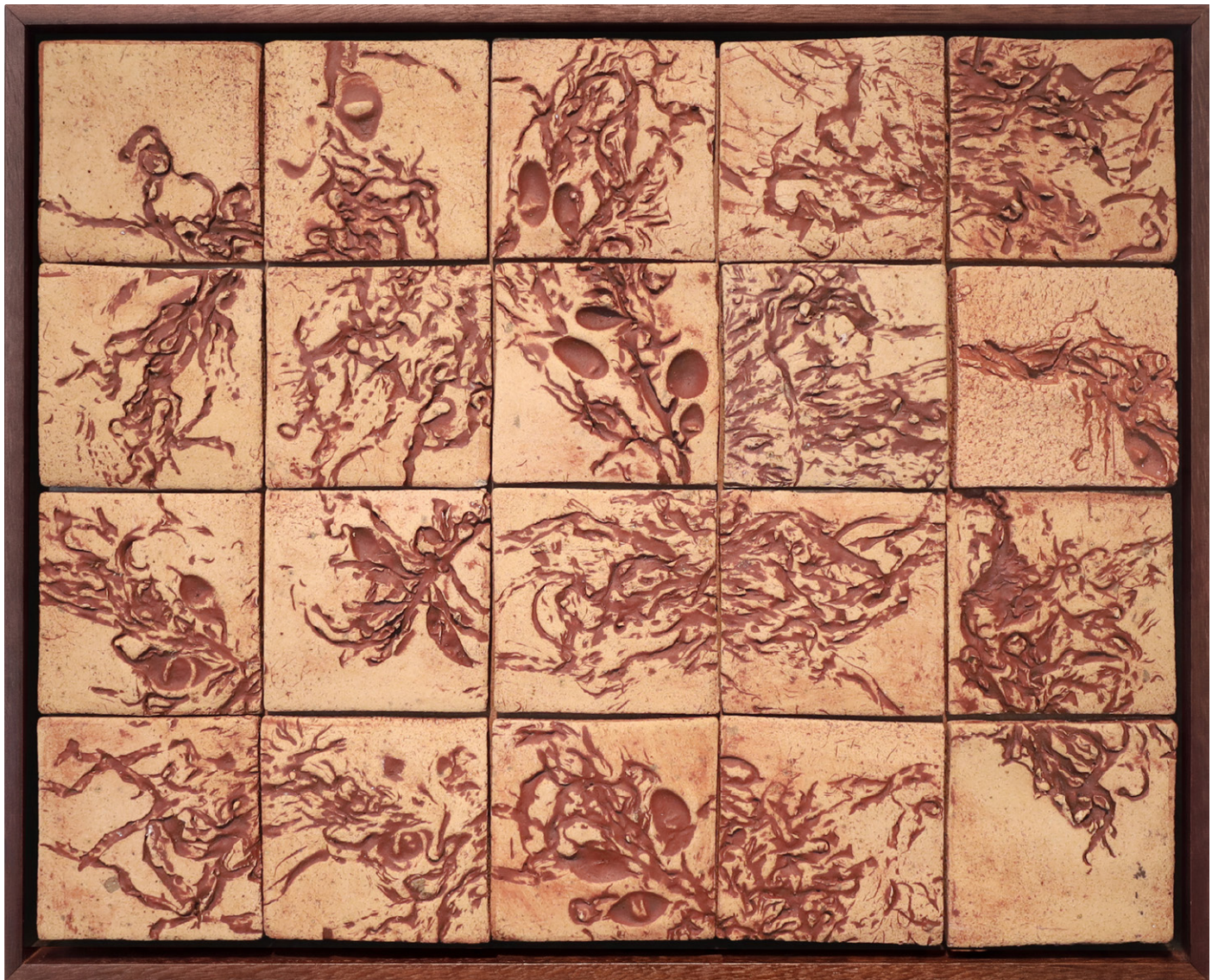


Between Earth and Sky, 2026
mid-fire clay, oxides, slips, glaze
39 x 38 x 38 cm
AUD 2,100



Shedding, 2026
mid-fire clay, oxides, glaze
57 x 47 x 47 cm
AUD 3,200





What the Tide Left Behind I, 2026
mid-fire ceramic, iron oxide
33 x 41.5 cm
framed in hardwood, stained espresso
AUD 2,800



What the Tide Left Behind II, 2026
mid-fire ceramic, iron oxide
37 × 46.5 cm
framed in hardwood, stained espresso
AUD 2,800



Soft Veil, 2026
mid-fire clay, porcelain slip, glaze
34 x 37 x 37 cm
AUD 1,950



Drifting, 2026

mid-fire clay, oxides, porcelain slip, glaze

32 x 32 x 32 cm

AUD 1,500



Fossil Rock, 2026
mid-fire clay, oxides, slips, glaze
30 x 30 x 30 cm
AUD 1,500



Tracks, 2026
mid-fire clay, oxide, glaze
27 x 32 x 32 cm
AUD 1,500



Weathered, 2026
mid-fire clay, slips, oxide, glaze
20 x 25 x 25 cm
AUD 900



CURATORIAL+CO.

ART GALLERY + CONSULTANCY

ENQUIRIES TO SOPHIE VANDER, DIRECTOR
curatorialandco.com | hello@curatorialandco.com
80 William St, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011
+61 2 9318 1728 | @curatorialandco

Photography courtesy of the artist.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this gallery stands. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, skies, and culture. We honour the rich artistic traditions that have existed on this Country for tens of thousands of years, and we recognise that First Nations people are the first artists, storytellers, and custodians of culture. We are committed to listening, learning, and working in respectful collaboration with First Nations communities.