

Artists Bio

Leanne Vassallo



Born into a family of artists and potters, I have had a ball of clay, pencil or brush in my hand for as long as I can remember. Our family business 'Hillcraft' hosted international ceramic instructors and I gained certification to teach at the age of 15. After completing TOP Arts in 1981 I had been accepted into RMIT Fine Art but was pulled back into the family business to teach and produce workbooks for porcelain dollmaking. China painting and porcelain arts were my focus for the next 25yrs.

In 2006 I rekindled my love of oil painting and began life drawing again. In 2008 I started portrait oil classes with Claude Ciccone, pastel and oil with Raelene Sharp as well as botanical watercolour with Jenny Phillips at The Botanical Art School of Melbourne. My years of painting 3 dimensional faces has drawn me to specialize in children's portraits in pastel & oils which have kept me constantly busy through commissions over the last 15 years .

I move between a variety of mediums depending upon the subject sometimes with a thread of a similar theme. A love of Art Deco inspired a series of portraits 'Deco Divas' . I like to work from real life objects including flowers , peacock feathers & butterflies.

My latest challenge is creating a portrait for the Archibald Prize for 2025 to celebrate a friend in the Film Fashion industry.

Publications : 'Hidden in the Hills' - Artists of the Dandenong Ranges

2019 - winner of the Hans Heysen Award - Sherbrooke Art Society.

2021 - 'Inspirations' duel Exhibition with Julie Kok

Member of - SAS Sherbrooke Art Society / PSV Pastel Society of Vic

MSWPS Melbourne Society of women painter & sculptors