

Roshni Senapati | ji + senapati | duo exhibition | 2-18 June 2023

Assembling Fragments continues my practice of examining ideas of memory, family history and cultural connection through vessels made from two time-honoured materials, porcelain and cloth. Working with two materials allows me to explore these ideas not only through the form of the porcelain vessel, but also with the cloth and thread that is stitched into its walls.

This exhibition, ji + senapati, presents an opportunity to explore new possibilities for a conversation between my chosen materials and to introduce print and colour through the silk, rather than with glaze.

Each pair has a simple vocabulary; two hand-built memory-keepers, one with small hand-stitched and embellished textile fragments and the other with knotted thread loops flowing out of the vessel.

The silk I use is drawn from saris and haberdashery ephemera belonging to my mother. Using fragments of cloth, I build little collages on the vessel wall. As I am piecing and placing the cloth, I am layering memories, binding them together into new vignettes that tell the story of the cloth and its life within our family. Tied into the walls of the accompanying piece are knotted loops using threads pulled from the silk. They mirror the rim and rounded base of the vessel. The fragility of the threads reflects the delicacy of the porcelain. They honour the unknown hands that touched it long before mine and wove it into cloth.

Assembling Fragments is a meditation on the fragility of memories and the assembling of new ones.

Roshni Senapati is an Australian ceramic artist based in Meanjin/ Brisbane.

Born in India, Roshni has called Australia home for forty years. After a successful 35-year teaching career, Roshni is focussing on her ceramic practice. In 2016, she commenced formal ceramics classes and continues her studio-led exploration of sculptural vessels, working from her home studio.

In 2021, Roshni was selected as a finalist for both the inaugural *National Emerging Art Prize* with Michael Reid Gallery in Sydney and the *Ceramic Arts Queensland Siliceous Award for Ceramic Excellence*.

In late 2022, Roshni was awarded winner of the *Little Things Art Prize* in the ceramics category held at Saint Cloche, Sydney. In June 2023, she will feature in a duo show with Sandy Ji (as joint ceramic winners) at Gallery of Small Things in Canberra.

In the same year, Roshni was a finalist in the *2022 Clunes Ceramic Awards* and the *North Queensland Ceramic Awards*.

Roshni has exhibited in group exhibitions in Brisbane (Makers Gallery) and Melbourne. Her work has featured in the *Winter Exhibition at Thrown Contemporary*, London in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

She is one of 45 artists featured in *Earth & Fire* - a book released in April 2023.