

# Christina McLean

## An Ode to Pink

November 22 - December 2

Christina McLean is a multi-disciplinary artist based on the Central Coast of NSW, Australia, living on Darkinjung land. For over three decades Christina's practice has focused on materials and the marks that are placed upon them, most notably in the medium of clay. Her work explores her connection to place and an endless love of the natural world. Christina has a BA Visual Arts from Sydney College of the Arts 1991. After completing her degree, she co-founded Chowk Ceramics and for ten years produced unique ceramic tableware collections, sculptural pieces and wall work. After further postgraduate studies in Design at UTS, Christina turned her mark making to textiles and launched her own textile print studio in 2009. Collaborating with leading fashion designers, her textile designs graced many catwalks and formed an integral part of the designers collections.

In 2014 Christina came back to clay with her brand Trade the Mark. Working with stoneware and earthenware clays, she predominantly throws vessels on the wheel and works with slabs to create ceramic wall pieces. Christina uses clay as her canvas, creating bold, one-off ceramic works that are intricately etched with sgraffito decoration. Each vividly coloured vessel celebrates her devotion to a hand-crafted practice.

*My love for pink started from a young age. My dad was obsessed with liquorice all sorts. I couldn't stand the actual taste of the lollies but became fascinated with the colourful stripes of colour. That shade of pink was inviting, warm and sandwiched between layers of black and white – what more could you want.*

*The love affair has continued, through my wanderings and observations on my walks through the landscape. I see highlights of soft pink on shells, tiny spots of pink amongst the lichen that grows on the sandstone boulders on my property. A true delight is to witness the seasonal changes on the bark of our local Angophora's. Watching this bark deepen from soft, peachy pink hues to the vibrant coral is just sublime.*

