

<b>Task Number</b>	THREE	<b>Task Name</b>	Clay Sculpture and Review
<b>Course</b>	Yr 9 Visual Arts	<b>Faculty</b>	CAPA
<b>Teacher</b>	Ms Simpson/ Ms O'Sullivan	<b>Head Teacher</b>	Ms Hook
<b>Issue date</b>	29/7/25 Tuesday T3 Wk2 (B)	<b>Due date</b>	23/9/25 Tuesday T3 Wk10 (B)
<b>Focus (Topic)</b>	Ceramics	<b>Task Weighting</b>	25% (15% prac) (10% theory)

### Outcomes

- 5.1 develops range and autonomy in selecting and applying visual arts conventions and procedures to make artworks
- 5.4 investigates the world as a source of ideas, concepts and subject matter in the visual arts
- 5.5 makes informed choices to develop and extend concepts and different meanings in their artworks
- 5.6 demonstrates developing technical accomplishment and refinement in making artworks
- 5.7 applies their understanding of aspects of practice to critical and historical interpretations of art
- 5.8 uses their understanding of the function of and relationships between artist – artwork – world – audience in critical and historical interpretations of art
- 5.10 demonstrates how art criticism and art history construct meanings

### Task description

**There are THREE parts to this assessment task**

#### 1. Tripod ceramic sculpture/vessel- 15%

- You will create a ceramic object that has three points touching the ground
- It can be a utilitarian (useable) bowl/cup OR a sculptural piece
- You will be marked on:
  - How well your piece is built
  - The presentation of your piece. Is it finished? Is it refined (neat) and presented well
  - Does it stand on three points?

#### 2. Visual Arts Diary

- You need to have all class notes glued in and completed
- You need to have a finished drawing of your plan for your ceramic piece
- You need to write a reflection about your ceramic piece. (Describe the process, tell me what you like about it and what you would do differently next time)

#### 3. Critical Review of Merran Esson's Work (see scaffold attached) 10%

- You will write a critical review of Merren Essan's work
- The purpose of this task is to describe and evaluate Essan's work
- The audience you are writing for is the wider public and your teacher marking the assessment so you need to use formal language
- It can be presented as a magazine article, newspaper article or web article
- In the review you will discuss two of Essan's works in detail and include images of these works.

If you are having troubles or have any questions email Ms Simpson or Ms O'Sullivan:

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Marking Guidelines- Prac	
<p><b>Outstanding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramic piece is completed to an outstanding level, care has been taken and presentation is neat and refined</li> <li>• Submitted pieces demonstrates a sophisticated level of technical accomplishment using clay as a medium</li> <li>• Diary has been consistently used throughout the term and includes development of ideas, including a preliminary sketch and all classwork is glued in and questions completed in a detailed manner.</li> </ul>	<p>13 – 15 A</p>
<p><b>High:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramic piece is completed to an excellent level, presentation is neat and refined • Submitted piece demonstrates strong technical accomplishment using clay as a medium • Diary has been used throughout the term and includes development of ideas for submitted works, and all classwork is glued in and questions completed.</li> </ul>	<p>10 – 12 B</p>
<p><b>Sound:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramic piece is completed to a sound level, some areas of the piece may be more refined than others. • Submitted piece demonstrates good technical accomplishment using clay as a medium • Diary appears to have been used inconsistently, however, shows some annotations and development of ideas and class notes.</li> </ul>	<p>7 – 9 C</p>
<p><b>Basic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramic piece is completed to a basic level, some are less refined and complete than others.</li> <li>• Technical accomplishment &amp; refinement is inconsistent and demonstrates a foundational level of technical skill using clay as a medium.</li> <li>• Diary reflects minimal development of ideas for submitted works and minimal class notes.</li> </ul>	<p>4 – 6 D</p>
<p><b>Limited:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceramic piece is unfinished and presentation of the piece has not been considered • Submitted works demonstrate limited technical accomplishment using clay as a medium • Diary demonstrates little or no development of ideas for submitted works and class notes are incomplete.</li> <li>• The submission reflects a lack of engagement in the task.</li> </ul>	<p>1-3 E</p>

Marking Guidelines- Critical Review	
<p><b>Outstanding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review is structured as per scaffold, written in third person, includes sophisticated noun groups and action verbs.</li> <li>• Review is highly detailed and describes at least two of her works in detail, including form and shape, surface decoration, colour and references to nature</li> <li>• Esson's ideas and inspiration are clearly outlined and described in the article</li> <li>• The techniques she uses are clearly outlined and described in detail including, construction of forms, surface decoration and colours</li> </ul>	<p>9 – 10 A</p>
<p><b>High:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review is structured as per scaffold, written in third person, includes noun groups and action verbs.</li> <li>• Review is detailed and describes at least two of her works in detail, including form and shape, surface decoration, colour and references to nature</li> <li>• Esson's ideas and inspiration are outlined and described in the article</li> <li>• The techniques she uses are outlined and described including, construction of forms, surface decoration and colours</li> </ul>	<p>7 – 8 B</p>
<p><b>Sound:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review has some structure, is mostly written in third person, and includes some noun groups or action verbs.</li> <li>• Review describes at least two works and makes some reference to form and shape, surface decoration, colour and references to nature</li> <li>• Esson's ideas and inspiration are outlined</li> <li>• The techniques she uses are outlined and some reference is made to, construction of forms, surface decoration and colours</li> </ul>	<p>5 – 6 C</p>
<p><b>Basic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some attempt to structure writing as per scaffold has been made, little use of third person language, includes minimal use of noun groups or action verbs.</li> <li>• Review includes some reference to shape and form, surface decoration, colour and references to nature, however, lacks detail.</li> <li>• A reference to Esson's ideas and inspiration has been made, however, basic and superficial • Reference to techniques is basic and limited in their description</li> </ul>	<p>3 – 4 D</p>
<p><b>Limited:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing is not structured as per scaffold, and no attempt has been made to use third person language, noun groups or action verbs.</li> <li>• Review does not outline or mention surface decoration, colour and references to nature</li> <li>• Little reference is made about Esson's inspiration</li> <li>• Some reference to Esson's technique has been outlined, however, is superficial</li> </ul>	<p>1 – 2 E</p>

Feedback:

# WRITING A CRITICAL REVIEW ON MERRAN ESSON'S CERAMIC WORKS



*Trees of Monaro, 2018*

<b>Task</b>	You are writing a short magazine article as an art critic on the Contemporary Australian ceramic artist Merran Esson. For this you will look at the work of this artist who has used natural forms or objects affected by nature as the basis for her ideas. She has interpreted these forms in her designs for her ceramic works.
<b>First step- Draft</b>	<p>As preliminary research for your review, read the two articles provided and look at her work using the handout given to you in class.</p> <p>In your visual diary, complete the scaffold for writing a review using the information in the readings and from your own observations.</p>
<b>Second step- Writing the final review</b>	<p>Using the information in the scaffold from points 2, 3, and 4, prepare your final draft- <b>THIS SCAFFOLD IS NOT TO BE SUBMITTED FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT</b>. It is to help you structure your piece of writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin the review with an introduction to the artist including the following information. <b>Merran Esson, contemporary Australian ceramic artist.</b></li><li>• Then use the information from points 2, 3, and 4 of the <b>scaffold</b> to discuss her work.</li><li>• You can format it like a <b>magazine, newspaper or web article</b> if you like but remember the quality of the writing is what matters.</li></ul>

• **Some useful vocabulary or terms**

Look these up and you could use these in your writing. If you find others, add them too.

organic		glazes	
construction		engobes	
incised		engraved	
layered colour		oxides	
verdigris			

**Grammar features to include in your critical review:**

- ☐ When referring to the artist **use either her full name or just her surname**. She is never just Merran!
- ☐ **Write in third person-** Do not use me, myself or I (first person terms). Rather than writing “*I think Merran’s work is amazing*”, you should write “*Esson’s works seem to be imaginative interpretations of the sea*”.
- ☐ **Use noun groups-** A noun group is a group of words relating to, or building on, a noun. Noun groups usually consist of a pointer (the, a, an, this, that) plus one or more adjectives. For example, Esson’s textured ceramic pot.
- ☐ **Use action verbs-** a word that expresses an action. For example, carefully engraved.

**Banned words** – these words don’t really say anything specific about a work.

**Amazing, brilliant** (unless describing a brilliant shade of red), **terrific, good, nice, awesome, cool**

<p><b>1. Noun groups (descriptive words)</b></p> <p>Look at her work Starfish and one other work and write at least ten words (adjectives) that describe these works. Use words that are very specific and richly descriptive.</p>	
<p><b>2. Ideas and Inspiration (start of review)</b></p> <p>Write a paragraph that outlines the ideas behind her pot designs. You could include the things that have inspired her.</p>	
<p><b>3. Techniques that she has used</b></p> <p>From your reading, outline the techniques and materials that she has used for the following. Write at least 1 -2 sentences for each of the following points and use the terms in each point in these sentences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of her forms</li> <li>• Surface decoration</li> <li>• Glazes and colours</li> </ul> <p>*Remember to use action verbs</p>	<p>Construction of her forms</p> <p>Surface decoration</p> <p>Glazes and colours</p>

#### 4. Discussion of works

Using the Adjectives (descriptive words) and information from the scaffold, write a paragraph that describes in detail the appearance of two of her works. You could describe the following elements of the works:

- Form and shape
- Surface decoration
- Colours
- References to nature or effects of nature in her forms and images

Work 1 Title:

Work 2 Title:

### ***Some examples of Merran Esson's work***



#### **Merran ESSON: *Doubleshot 2*, 2004**

Merran Esson explores the imagery of the industrial detritus that forms part of Australia's rural landscape, focusing in particular on the ubiquitousness of metal water containers, from buckets to water tanks. Corroded, dented, mended and eventually rendered useless and cast aside, their forms remain potent in Esson's translation into ceramic, becoming metaphors for persistence and survival. The awkward junctions in *Doubleshot 2*, glazed to imitate the verdigris one might find on a disused copper pot, suggest a vessel that has been crudely modified to extend its use or capacity. Its multiple bullet-like piercings also allude to the vandalised fate of many isolated rural signs and metal objects, mute targets of anger and boredom.

[www.nga.gov.au/Exhibition/Transformations/Images](http://www.nga.gov.au/Exhibition/Transformations/Images)

#### **Merran ESSON: *Deep Pail***



Merran ESSON: *Conical Construction*, 2005



Merran ESSON: *Starfish*, 1993