



THE CHOSEN VESSEL BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

THE CHOSEN VESSEL by BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL 14 DEC 2022 – 3 FEB 2023

The Chosen Vessel showcases the collaborative work of Belinda Michael and Tiffany Titshall.

The artists both live and work in the central Victorian goldfields on Dja Dja Wurrung country. This is a first time collaboration: the creative practice involving reinventing myths as a reference point and an opportunity for experimentation with ceramic and surface decoration processes.

Evolving over three years, the collaboration formed in part as a result of the pandemic: the artists using the time for experimentation with local clays and surface decoration via sgraffito techniques and layering different slips, oxides and glazes.

Influenced by the form, scale and surface decoration of ancient water urns, historically carried by women, the artists revisit and subvert the life of the baby left behind in the short story 'The Chosen Vessel' by Australian 19th century Gothic writer Barbara Baynton, and re-examine the Victorian goldrush era from a gender perspective.

On the surface of twelve vessels, their story illustrates a version of the years after the young mother is murdered. The daughter survives and grows, becoming a mythic heroine avenging her mother by performing wild and powerful acts on her harem of enslaved men. Living in an arid, dystopian environment beside an engineered body of water, granite boulders and dry gnarled leafless trees, the positioning of the female protagonist within the raped landscape is brought to life within this context. As white women making work and living in rural Australia, Titshall and Michael challenge culturally appropriated and stereotypical gender issues, and explore the crisis of climate and environmental degradation.

Investigating niche elements of kink, power and retribution, the story creates a powerful female character occupying her own world.

Artists:

Belinda Michael
Tiffany Titshall

Curator:

Shelley Hinton
Post Office Gallery
Institute of Education, Arts and Community
Federation University

Director:

Associate Professor Richard Chew
Arts Academy Ballarat and Gippsland
Institute of Education, Arts and Community
Federation University

Art Handler and Installer:

Lars Stenberg

Authors:

Shelley Hinton
Belinda Michael
Tiffany Titshall



TIFFANY TITSHALL

left: concept drawing of snake wrestle, (2021)
ink on *Saunders Waterford* 300 GSM
H67.5 x W48 cm (framed)

BELINDA MICHAEL

overleaf: 13 concept vessels, (2021)
earthenware with slip, local clay, oxides, underglazes & overglaze,
sgraffito, once fired
H5 cm approx. ea.





BELINDA MICHAEL

left: Impetus, 2020
earthenware with slip, once fired
H37.5 x W35 x D35 cm

overleaf: Catalyst, 2022
earthenware with slip, underglazes & overglaze, once fired
H53 x W30 x D30 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

The Violation Of Mother, 2020

earthenware with slip, oxide, overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
H53 x W37 x D37 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

The Serpent Leads To Salvation, 2020/21
earthenware with slip, local clay, oxides, underglaze & overglaze,
sgraffito, once fired & acrylic media
H46 x W37 x D37 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

Call Of The Siren, 2020/21

earthenware with slip, local clay, oxides, underglaze & overglaze,
sgraffito, once fired & acrylic media

H46 x W33 x D33 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

Solitary Confinement, 2021

earthenware with slip, local clay, oxide, underglaze & overglaze,
sgraffito, once fired

H34 x W36 x D36 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

Branded With Guilt, And Crusht With Treble Woes, 2020
earthenware with slip, local clay, oxide & overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
H39 x W37 x D37 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

Say Thankyou, 2020/21

earthenware with slip, local clay, oxide, overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
& acrylic media

H48 x W35.5 x D35.5 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

Divine Love, 2021
earthenware with slip, local clay, oxide, underglaze & overglaze,
sgraffito, once fired
H33 x W35.5 x D35.5 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

What Is Done Cannot Be Undone, 2020/21

earthenware with slip, local clay, oxides, overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
& enamel media

H54.5 x W37.5 x D37.5 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

Baptism, 2021

earthenware with slip, underglaze & overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
H47 x W36 x D36 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

You Will Never Be The Same Again, 2020

earthenware with slip, local clay, oxide & overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
H51 x W34 x D34 cm





BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

He Wore His Last Year's Gown, 2021
earthenware with slip, local clay, oxide & overglaze, sgraffito, once fired
H48.5 x W37.5 x D37.5 cm





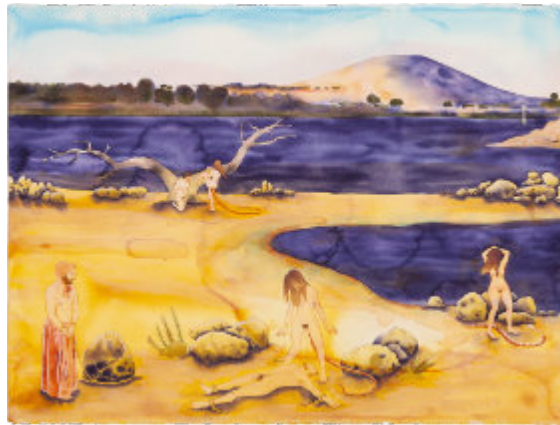
BELINDA MICHAEL & TIFFANY TITSHALL

She Takes Her Pleasure, 2020/21

earthenware with slip, oxides, underglazes & overglaze, sgraffito,
once fired & enamel media

H37.5 x W37 x D37 cm





TIFFANY TITSHALL

The Chosen Vessel (panorama 1-4), 2021/22
ink & acrylic on *Saunders Waterford 300 GSM*
H67.5 x W85.5 cm (framed)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was self-funded and completed with the help of technical over-glazing and kiln firing assistance by Jason Luca, curated by Shelley Hinton - curator Fed Uni gallery, copy sub-editing by Caleb Cluff, letters of support from Art Gallery of Ballarat; local First Nation artist Georgia MacGuire; and Central Goldfields Gallery. It will be on display thanks to the recognition and support of Federation University Post Office Gallery, 14 December 2022 – 3 February 2023.

Design:

Tiffany Titshall

Published 2022

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ISBN: 978-1-922874-02-3

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