

twin feats

A ceramicist and an artist are flung together by a Sydney art dealer with an idea for a collaborative exhibition. The result is calmer than you'd expect.



The sinuous, cool beauty of Fiona Myer's ceramics reflected in a still-life by Angus McDonald.



"I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A LOVELY MARRIAGE BETWEEN A CERAMICIST AND PAINTER," SAYS TIM OLSEN.



Artists in collaboration: Angus McDonald with Fiona Myer in her light, white Melbourne studio, LEFT. A McDonald sketch, BELOW LEFT, and examples of Myer's work, BELOW RIGHT.

INSPIRED BY THE simplicity of the Japanese aesthetic and artist Taizo Kuroda in particular, Fiona Myer's ceramics are wonderfully organic and serene. This former model, who was based in Paris for a number of years, has now embraced her earlier artistic passion for creating ethereal translucent decorative objects. She works out of a light, white studio at her home in Melbourne, as well as on the Mornington Peninsula. "I find making ceramics calming," she says. "I especially like Japanese ceramics, they are contemporary, yet remain serene and timeless."

Her work will share the spotlight in a show at the Tim Olsen Gallery Annex in Paddington, Sydney, with Australian still-life painter Angus McDonald, who has been working with her for the exhibition. The collaboration came about after Tim Olsen saw Giorgio Morandi's work at the Morandi museum in Bologna, Italy. "I thought it would be a lovely marriage between a ceramicist and painter," says Olsen. "Simple objects in a still-life can have such a sensitive poetry about them. That comes through in Fiona's work." McDonald's paintings, he says "are like still lifes without the flowers."

The rapport between the two artists was immediate. "I had met Fiona, seen her work and loved it," says McDonald. "I liked the idea of a collaboration and I decided the way to do this was for me to create a range of pictures that would stand behind her work and give people viewing the pieces more information. I wanted to create a discussion of Fiona's work, by me, in paint."

McDonald shares Myer's love of Japan. He exhibits there and on a recent trip bought two beautiful porcelain bottles in a market, giving one to Myer. "I like the gentle simplicity of Japanese ceramics. Fiona has managed to capture a lot of the same feeling in her pieces. They also remind me a lot of Gwyn Hanssen Pigott's work."

Myer would like to spend time in Japan: "To live and breathe their work. They have such a sense of design. Less is more and it's such a pure expression." *SUSAN WESTWOOD*

Tim Olsen Gallery Annex, 72a Windsor Street, Paddington, NSW, 24 April – 12 May, (02) 9360 9854; www.timolsengallery.com.