

Dawn Oakford

Dawn Oakford is one of Tasmania's most superb ceramicists. She works from her home-based studio in Lenah Valley, producing an extensive range of limited edition, slip-cast tableware (decorated with underglaze colours and fired to 1,240 degrees Celsius).

Oakford's routine is multi-faceted with one product range drawing inspiration from different species of Australian wildlife, most notably endangered species. This series includes angular jugs, cups, teapots, bowls etc are strikingly decorated with images of such threatened species as the Black Quoll, the Numbat, the Gouldian Finch, the Orange-Bellied Parrot and also the Leafy Sea Dragon. This is a very admired range, presenting something unique to those seeking a quality memento of Australia.

Another flourishing product range entails the creation of specialty teapots for collectors and various group shows across the nation. Oakford's "one-off" teapots are fresh and vibrant, deriving from her ability to combine several art history favourites in a good-natured and highly individual manner.

Oakford has always produced items that are linked – sometimes tenuously – with functionality. She continues to stretch those boundaries even further through the creation of more sculptural pieces. Most recently "assemblages" of textured surfaces and forms suggestive of brass and stringed instruments.