

# Jason Fitzgerald

## *Alchemy of form*

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14 May – 01 June 2024

Jan Murphy Gallery is pleased to present *Alchemy of form*, a new exhibition of hand-built stoneware vessels and sculptures by Brisbane-based artist Jason Fitzgerald.

A cabinet maker by trade, Fitzgerald's art practice allows him to do away with precision and more playfully explore the parameters of materials and function. Repetition has been a consistent feature in Fitzgerald's practice, and all the sculptures in this exhibition take their cues from familiar shapes.

The hand-built objects are glazed in a way that enhance their tactile quality and organic texture. Functional and non-functional objects meet in *Alchemy of form*, vessels sit alongside botanical forms, coral, hooks, and coiled worms.

"Everything seems to be interconnected, albeit in an abstract way. The Butterfly vases trace their inspiration back to a toy butterfly my dog discovered in the bay. The hooks are a nod to my passion for fishing. The motifs of stars and crowns draw their influence from the reef, and even the worms, though not intentionally related at first, seem to weave into this narrative."

A quiet and thoughtful person, Jason describes the more personal layers to this series of sculptures - "Anxiety, often dismissed as a disruptive force, becomes the catalyst for my creativity. It fuels the intensity in my creations, shaping forms that are both vulnerable and resilient."

"The process of creation becomes a meditative act, a delicate equilibrium between surrender and control. It is in the careful calibration of weight, form, and negative space that I discover harmony."

- Jason Fitzgerald, 2024

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Fitzgerald completed his BA at Queensland College of Art (Griffith University) in 2011 and has exhibited regularly since 2006. In 2010, he won several awards for excellence in studio practice and has been a finalist for a number of awards since, including The Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award, The Alice Prize, The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize and the Gold Coast Art Prize. His work is held in Australia's Artbank collection and a number of private collections.