

Keys to the collection— Faces

Suzanne Forsyth

“I’m a little teapot, short and stout: hair is my handle, mouth is my spout. When I’m all steamed up, then I shout “Get the gladdies, possums, and I’ll pour out!”

—*Living Likes*, Vogue Living Oct-Nov, 1982

Suzanne Forsyth-Hatch was born in Australia in 1948. When training at East Sydney Technical Collage, she became interested in non-functional ceramics and began to use commercial ceramic colours and glazes.

She first exhibited her work in 1971 and in 1974 she received an Australia Council Craft Board grant to undertake further specialised studies in industrial form making and decoration processes at the North Staffordshire Polytechnic, England. At this time she became interested in making limited production sculptures and funky vessels. In 1980 she travelled to the USA, where she worked and lived before returning to Australia in 1981.

In 1989 Suzanne and her partner Rick Hatch moved to, New South Wales. They acquired 37 acres of untouched bush land where they designed and built their studio (Weemala Pottery) and home.



The Dame Edna Everage teapot—

In 1982 The *Dame Edna Everage* teapot was made for an exhibition of ‘celebrity teapots’ held in London. Forsyth-Hatch met Barry Humphries in Sydney to discuss the project, and then worked from photographs of Dame Edna Everage supplied by Humphries to construct a clay model of the teapot. A mould was made of the original clay model and used to produce a limited edition of 25 teapots.

Barry Humphries supplied the details and make-up colour that Dame Edna used for lipstick, eyeliner and rouge. These colours were replicated by Forsyth in the final glazes on the teapots. The teapot also combines non-ceramic elements such as the diamanté glass in the earrings and hair-clips. The cups created for the teapot were small gladioli—Dame Edna’s signature bouquet.

Editions of the teapots are found in the collections of the Tate Gallery (London), the Orange Regional Gallery, the Queen Victoria Museum (Launceston), and in the private collections of Mike Walsh (TV personality), and Barry Humphries.

**Geelong
Gallery**

Victorian Curriculum level 7 to VCE
geelonggallery.org.au/learn

Suzanne Forsyth
‘Dame Edna Everage’ teapot 1982
glazed and lustrated earthenware;
edition 7/25
Collection: Geelong Gallery

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G A L L E R Y



Suzanne Forsyth

born United Kingdom 1827;
worked in Australia 1834-57;
died United Kingdom 1886

'Dame Edna Everage' teapot 1982
glazed and lustred earthenware;
edition 7/25
32.0 x 26.0(diameter) cm
Collection: Geelong Gallery
Purchased through the Gordon
Jackson Trust with the assistance
of the Crafts Board of the Australia
Council, 1982

Question

Why would Forsyth-Hatch have decided to produce a slip cast mould for the piece?

What type of drawings do you think she would have produced to create the piece, and why?

Research

Produce and explain the process for creating a slip cast mould. This could be in the form of a time-line or a multi frame illustration of the process.

Activity

Produce a series of whimsical gesture portraits and produce a set of three-dimensional models to create your own Claymation movie. Attention to processes must be well planned and documented.