

## **Professor Neville Assad-Salha (Australia)**

### **KEYNOTE SPEECH SUMMARY**

The Seres '18 Exhibitions are a role model for the world.

They comprise of an extreme diversity of different professional approaches through the material, Clay.

It is wonderful to see these exhibitions broken up into 3 major themes: -

“Fantastic Teapot”; “Ceramic Jewelry” and “Old & New” which includes glass artists. These exhibitions give ceramic and glass artists an opportunity to explore different areas and perceptions through their medium.

The Turkish educational and wider ceramic community is rapidly becoming a leading role-model as it incorporates many different approaches and theories behind the education of ceramics.

The Symposiums have given the opportunity to many international artists to come to Turkey and absorb the rich culture that it has to offer, in turn creating influence throughout the world.

We can see wonderful crossovers and inspirations happening through many different cultures.

Since the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, Turkey has been a leading force in paving the way in ceramics and adapting ceramics into functionality and aesthetic form which has given a great deal of influence to contemporary ceramics throughout the world.

We have seen clay going from a strong position in the Arts in the 1960's and '70's to a lesser position in later decades, and now has returned to a major platform which is currently in a very strong position in the art world. This is wonderful to see as it is now giving many of the younger members of the community the opportunity to express themselves through a malleable material.

It also allows established clay workers to reposition themselves in the art world and re-explore a range of approaches which feeds back into the educational departments in Ceramics etc.

Ceramics currently has gone into many different areas from the most simplistic and minimal forms to the more rugged, organic and robust artworks.

It has also allowed the artist to move into the most decorative forms, along with conceptualizing through the material, Clay.

The Macsabal Symposiums which have taken place over the past 20 years in Korea, Turkey and China, have proved to be extremely successful in bringing international artists together from many different countries and influences within the medium of ceramics.

Finally, exhibitions of this kind advance the global field as to how we see and move forward with contemporary ceramics.

Thanks to the Turkish Ceramic Society and Anadolu University for organizing these 3 major international Seres18 Exhibitions.

Thanks to the International Macsabal Symposium organized in 3 countries, including Ankara, Turkey; China and Korea.

Also thanks to the International Terracotta Symposium in Eskisehir, the Mayor of Eskisehir Municipality and his council members for their continued support.

These symposiums are the intersection point for the meeting of the artists in the world.

Finally, a special thanks to Lecturer Mutlu Baskaya and her committee.

