



Image credit: Helen Margaret

# Warrick Palmateer

## About the artist

Accomplished potter from Western Australia, Warrick Palmateer channels his deep connection to the coastal landscape into his ceramic vessels. With over three and a half decades of experience, his art reflects the rugged and delicate beauty of the Indian Ocean and Southwestern Australian coastline he calls home. Influenced by his upbringing in Western Australia, Palmateer's work captures the interplay of light, shade and movement inherent in the littoral zone. His vessels, often gargantuan in scale, are formed from brick clay sourced from the Perth Hills, imbuing them with a sense of place and history. Drawing from his passion for beach-combing and surfing, Palmateer employs expressive textures and intuitively rendered colours to evoke the ever-changing nature of the littoral zone.

With thanks to

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Rockingham Arts Centre  
11 Kent Street,  
Rockingham

### Gallery opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday  
10am – 4pm

### Contact:

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

Warrick Palmateer, *Leeuwin Current i*, 2024, kiln fired earth, 60 cm x 60 cm. Image credit: Helen Margaret



# Leeuwin Current

**Warrick Palmateer**  
17 August 2024 – 8 September 2024





Warrick Palmateer, *Leeuwin Current ii*, 2024, kiln fired earth, 53 cm x 60 cm.  
Image credit: Helen Margaret

## Exhibition information by Margaret Jeffery

The warm and powerful flow of the Leeuwin Current inspires Warrick Palmateer's clay odyssey. The artist's journey, spanning over four decades, is deeply intertwined with the shifting and ephemeral nature of the largely dune limestone, Southwestern Australian coastline that defines his littoral palette.

In 'Leeuwin Current,' clay becomes a vessel for capturing the timeless rhythms of coastal existence. Each piece reflects the interplay of light, shade and movement inherent in the littoral zone, echoing the ever-shifting current of the Indian Ocean. Through expressive textures and intuitive colours, Palmateer's imposing wheel-thrown vessels evoke the motion of the current's clockwise and anti-clockwise eddies, swirls and vortexes as it flows southwards. This mesmerising dance, choreographed by nature, invites contemplation of its vanishing and emerging elements.

Surfing introduced Palmateer to the littoral zone and fostered his understanding of it as a dynamic and fleeting space, a poignant reflection of life's fundamental truth: change is the only constant.

Fundamental to Palmateer's practice is a profound sense of belonging. His studio is close to his ocean-muse and surfing's unique perspective blurs the boundaries between observer and participant, occasionally affording the opportunity to gaze back to shore through untamed wilderness and unspoiled nature.

Beach-combing spawned a key interest in the flotsam and jetsam of shipwrecks, plentiful on this treacherous coast.

Over the years, excursions to study these artefacts at Fremantle's Maritime Museum heightened Palmateer's appreciation for the intersection of history, art, and the maritime world and ignited his passion for wood-fired glazing. A knowledge of maritime maps, old and new, played an equally pivotal role in his surfing and artistic journeys.

Palmateer counts his mentors as crucial to his career: David Hunt, Bela Kotai, Joan Campbell, Stewart Scambler and his mother Kaye. All contributed significantly to his artistic journey, with key biographical dates looming large, including the revisited influence of Norwegian artist, Torbjørn Kvasbø, in the 'Leeuwin Current' works.

Collaboration has been an integral part of Palmateer's artistic practice. He has thrown minimalist porcelain vessels and marbles for renowned ceramic artist Pippin Drysdale for over thirty years. They shared the stage in 2018 in *Confluence*, their major survey exhibition, where Palmateer's gargantuan vessels, formed from brick clay from the Perth Hills, also referenced his coastal home. The pair are now developing some new forms for a major exhibition to be held in 2025 at the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Collaborations with photographer Robert Frith, film maker Matthew Bettinaglio and composer Ryan Burge were also significant for the *Confluence* retrospective.

Music and film have played an equally significant role in showcasing Palmateer's latest work by providing an unintrusive backdrop for 'Leeuwin Current'. Collaborations with musician Bailey Thompson and videographer Lee Jessamine culminated in the creation of an audio-visual ambience that resonates with Palmateer's clay representation of the littoral zone.

Through the highs and lows of life, surfing and ceramics have been steady companions, offering Palmateer inspiration and a sense of belonging. In 2024, with each stroke of clay, the transient nature of the Southwest Indian Ocean finds mature and monumental expression, inviting us to immerse ourselves in its timeless embrace.

This exhibition is presented in partnership  
with the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial 2024

**iOTA24**