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*"The outcome is often uncertain ..., but the journey is an exciting one and constantly rewarding".*

Victor Greenaway's words describe not only the experience of life in general, but more especially his personal journey of commitment, learning, refinement and achievement. In the world of contemporary ceramics, Greenaway holds a long-established and respected position. His many exhibitions, awards and scholarships and the establishment of commercial potteries and training of students have ensured that his work and reputation are held in esteem by both colleagues and collectors.

This beautifully presented book examines the development of his work from 1965 to 2005 and gives us a privileged insight into the nature of the man creating these poised and elegant ceramics. The eye-catching cover of the book depicts three recent pieces crisply photographed against a black background. Two are examples of Limoges porcelain with one a buttery yellow and the other a white with a rich, almost tomato soup interior glaze. The third piece is an example of *buccherio* – an ancient technique from Etruscan times using terracotta clay. The smoke-infused reduction firing imparts a velvety charcoal finish that is in direct contrast to the purity and cleanliness of the porcelain pieces. The wow factor of the cover is undeniable and the choice of these pieces is entirely appropriate as they represent Greenaway's present work and epitomise the vibrancy and natural delight of his vision.

The foreword by Janet Mansfield is an appraisal of not only Greenaway's work but also of the man, his

# Victor Greenaway

## Ceramics 1965-2005

*Book review by Jenny Jacks,  
designer and teacher*

lifestyle, environment and his intrinsic and sincere dedication to purpose.

Tim Jacobs' introduction tells Greenaway's story from the early teenage years of curiosity through the exciting learning years of the '60s and his Mungeribar Studio and the Broomhill Pottery days. After the devastation of the Ash Wednesday fires and extensive and on-going overseas travel, we follow his path to Nungurner in Gippsland, to the rolling land, the lakes and the ocean. Here, in this rural haven, his accrued knowledge and experience of his craft is imbued with a confidence and an assurance that surely comes from the natural rhythms of the land itself.

As well as telling Greenaway's life story Tim Jacobs poetically describes the actual physical details of working with clay – the wedging, throwing and centering, the whirring of the wheel, the pause before the glaze-filled brush rolls across the surface, the shimmer of heat as the clay turns into another identity. All these are familiar sensations to potters but are so evocatively drawn that all readers can feel and see the magic of the process through his words.

The 110 colour plates tell the story of his journey. We see the early stoneware pots with decorative geometric patterns, the Japanese influences and the early signs of the appreciation of subtly altered forms. With growing confidence and mastery of control we come to the present work, to the poised and balanced pieces that he appears to achieve with consummate ease. The crisp colour photography enables us to see the assured brush stroke, the delicate celadon hues and our eyes delight in the rich, vibrant glazes pooling in the curves and grooves offset by the purity and lightness of the translucent fine porcelain.

Dispersed throughout the book are some interesting insights; some written by Greenaway himself about his favourite styles of *buccherio* and fine porcelain: also a charming essay by his daughter Lisa, musing on the art of the potter. The inclusion of the black and white snapshots showing Greenaway at work in the studio and with friends and family are personal insights and help the reader view the artist as a man, curious, intense and engaged in his work.

This comprehensive and thoughtful evaluation of Victor Greenaway's work provides the reader with much more than a mere visual treat. From the pages of this fine book comes a smiling picture of his enthusiasm and delight in his vision and his world.