

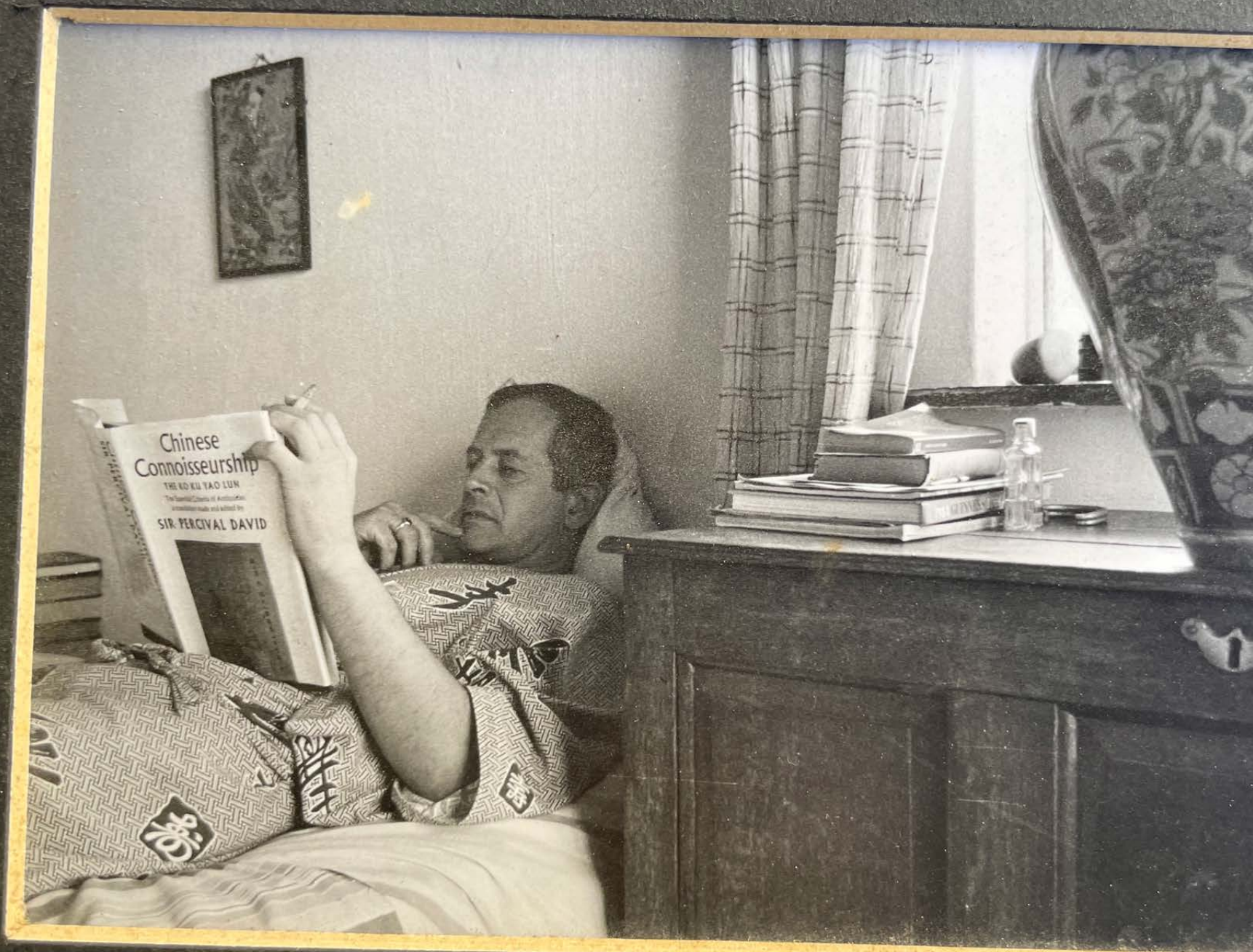


HYLTON NEL BOWLS

STEVENSON

Stevenson is pleased to present *Bowls*, an overview exhibition of ceramics by artist-potter Hylton Nel, who has considered the form and decoration of bowls for the past 60 years. As he notes:

It's a shape that makes sense. Historically the form of the bowl has emerged and evolved universally, so there are an infinite array of references from cultures in China to Europe to Africa to the Middle East to bring into one's own bowls. I like to make things that are just simple, ordinary, easy to use. Bowls themselves are versatile, they can be held with one hand, their contents scooped up with the other. The bowl's foot is there to prevent hot liquid burning your hands, the heat transfers to the foot, so you can hold it, but the foot can also be used for a little wire to wrap around, to hang it up, for use and display.



I need a starting idea that fascinates me in some way, and I want to see what it would look like if I did *that* and *that* and *that*. It has to interest me enough to want to pursue; at the same time one tries to be practical. It's a lot of things and it's the whole thing. What kind of shape am I using - a bowl shape, a basic shape. It can be useful, it's a basic useable shape. And the colour? And what do I do with the edge, so that it feels easy? The weight of it, the shape of it. And then the outside of the bowl, which if it's hung on a wall wouldn't be visible, but somehow for the bowl to be complete it needs something on the outside, but *what*? The glaze inspires me.

These funny little things are in the head while you are working, and respond to the immediate stuff you are working with. It could be green paint off the brush, which otherwise you might twist and turn to make it into a tree with leaves, but just that green, as it were, strives to exist in its own right. How could it best manifest itself? I suppose I'm trying to make things that just exist, as if they've always existed, and a reluctance to say 'these hands totally made that'. Or, in other words, calling something into existence without actually being there for every little something of its manifestation. To have something come into being without, as it were, totally controlling it.



Bowls is wholly drawn from Nel's own archive collection that he has set aside over the years, and includes works spanning 50 years of deeply personal exploration. For him,

When you look at the variety of things made over time, sometimes they are made around the same time but look very different from one another; other times things are separated by time, but look very similar. As far as I am concerned they are the same, but in fact there are variations and changes. Things are 'of a time', there are flows, and sometimes they shift abruptly. I only see them clearly after a while, because at the time of making it you're sort of in the middle of it. Time gives it distance. After a long time I can look at my things and think, that's nice, but in that moment of making it, one is too close. You need time to see them.



Penis bowl made in Whitstable, Kent, c.1969-1973

Glazed ceramic

4.5 x 16cm

Inscribed with potter's mark



Two figures, Whitstable, Kent, c.1969 -1973

Glazed ceramic

9 x 19cm

Inscribed HN





Lady in the shower bowl, c.1977
Glazed ceramic
5 x 18cm





Small bowl I
Glazed ceramic
7 x 14cm
Inscribed HN



Small bowl II
Glazed ceramic
7 x 14cm
Inscribed HN





Bethulie clay slip over buff, 1993

Glazed ceramic

5.5 x 19cm

Inscribed HN

Retrospective cat. 150



Man with lug ears, 20 July 1994

Glazed ceramic

11.5 x 23cm

Inscribed HN

Retrospective cat. 171





Ochre bowl, 31 December 1994

Glazed ceramic

7 x 22.5cm

Inscribed HN



'Aan die noorde kant van Bethulie', 18 January 1995

Glazed ceramic

9 x 30cm

Inscribed HN



Blue and white checks bowl with folded rim, 7 September 1995

Glazed ceramic

8.5 x 27.5cm

Inscribed HN





Green bowl, 31 October 1997
Glazed ceramic
9 x 29cm
Inscribed NH



Lady with birds bowl, 12 March 1999

Glazed ceramic

8 x 22cm

Inscribed NHH



Garde La Foy
Glazed ceramic
6 x 20cm
Inscribed NH



Homage to Picasso, 12 March 1999

Glazed ceramic

9 x 21.5cm

Inscribed HN

Retrospective cat. 222



Self portrait bowl, 24 June 1999

Glazed ceramic

13 x 32cm

Inscribed NHH





Sitting on a bench bowl, 8 May 2007
Glazed ceramic
8 x 24cm





Creature bowl, 6 June 2007
Glazed ceramic
10 x 32cm
Inscribed NHH



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Flowers and lines bowl
Glazed ceramic
6 x 16.5cm



Persian paste bowl, 24 July 2008
Glazed ceramic
8.5 x 20.5cm
Inscribed NHH





Bowl with rounded edges
Glazed ceramic
10 x 33cm





Striation bowl, 25 September 2009

Glazed ceramic

10 x 28cm

Inscribed NHH





Cat bowl
Glazed ceramic
7 x 17cm





Fish bowl, 9 March 2010
Glazed ceramic
8.5 x 26.5cm
Inscribed NHH



Turquoise bowl, 17 January 2011
Glazed ceramic
11 x 28cm
Inscribed NHH





Scene with cats bowl, 2 May 2012
Glazed ceramic
27 x 23.5cm
Inscribed NHH



'To dispel a negative vibe' bowl, 3 May 2012

Glazed ceramic

8 x 29.5cm

Inscribed NHH



Lady in a landscape bowl
Glazed ceramic
11 x 23cm
Inscribed HN





Skull bowl, 30 May 2012

Glazed ceramic

8 x 27.5cm

Inscribed Nel HH



Brown bowl, 7 June 2013
Glazed ceramic
8.5 x 22.5cm





Dark bowl, 7 June 2013
Glazed ceramic
8.5 x 22.5cm



Beige bowl I
Glazed ceramic
7 x 20.5cm





Beige bowl II
Glazed ceramic
7 x 20.5cm



Marbled bowl, 8 July 2013
Glazed ceramic
6 x 22.5cm





Marbled bowl
Glazed ceramic
5.5 x 23cm



Marbled bowl
Glazed ceramic
5.5 x 24cm



Bright marbled bowl
Glazed ceramic
6.5 x 20.5cm





Dark marbled bowl with spiralled edge, 15 July 2013
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 26cm



Bowl with pinkish glaze, 28 August 2013
Glazed ceramic
8 x 24cm



Dark bowl with circular lines, 28 August 2013
Glazed ceramic
10 x 25.5cm





Stone bowl, 6 September 2013
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 23.5cm



Marbled bowl with floral motif, 17 October 2013
Glazed ceramic
8 x 24cm



Marbled bowl, 30 March 2014
Glazed ceramic
9 x 25cm
Inscribed NH





Marbled bowl, 30 March 2014
Glazed ceramic
8 x 24cm
Inscribed NH



Bowl with glaze test I
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 19cm



Bowl with glaze test II
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 21.5cm



Bowl with glaze test III
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 21.5cm



Yellowish bowl with carved edging
Glazed ceramic
6.5 x 17cm



Celadon-type bowl with red foot, 28 November 2014
Glazed ceramic
9 x 24.5cm
Inscribed NHH





Stone bowl, 7 July 2015
Glazed ceramic
6 x 20cm
Inscribed NHH



Bowl with glaze test, 7 July 2015
Glazed ceramic
6 x 21cm
Inscribed NHH



'Leave it on the wall, watch it give birth to mist and fog', 7 July 2015

Glazed ceramic

8 x 23cm

Inscribed NHH





Celadon-type bowl with dark blue outside, 7 July 2015

Glazed ceramic

7 x 22cm

Inscribed NHH



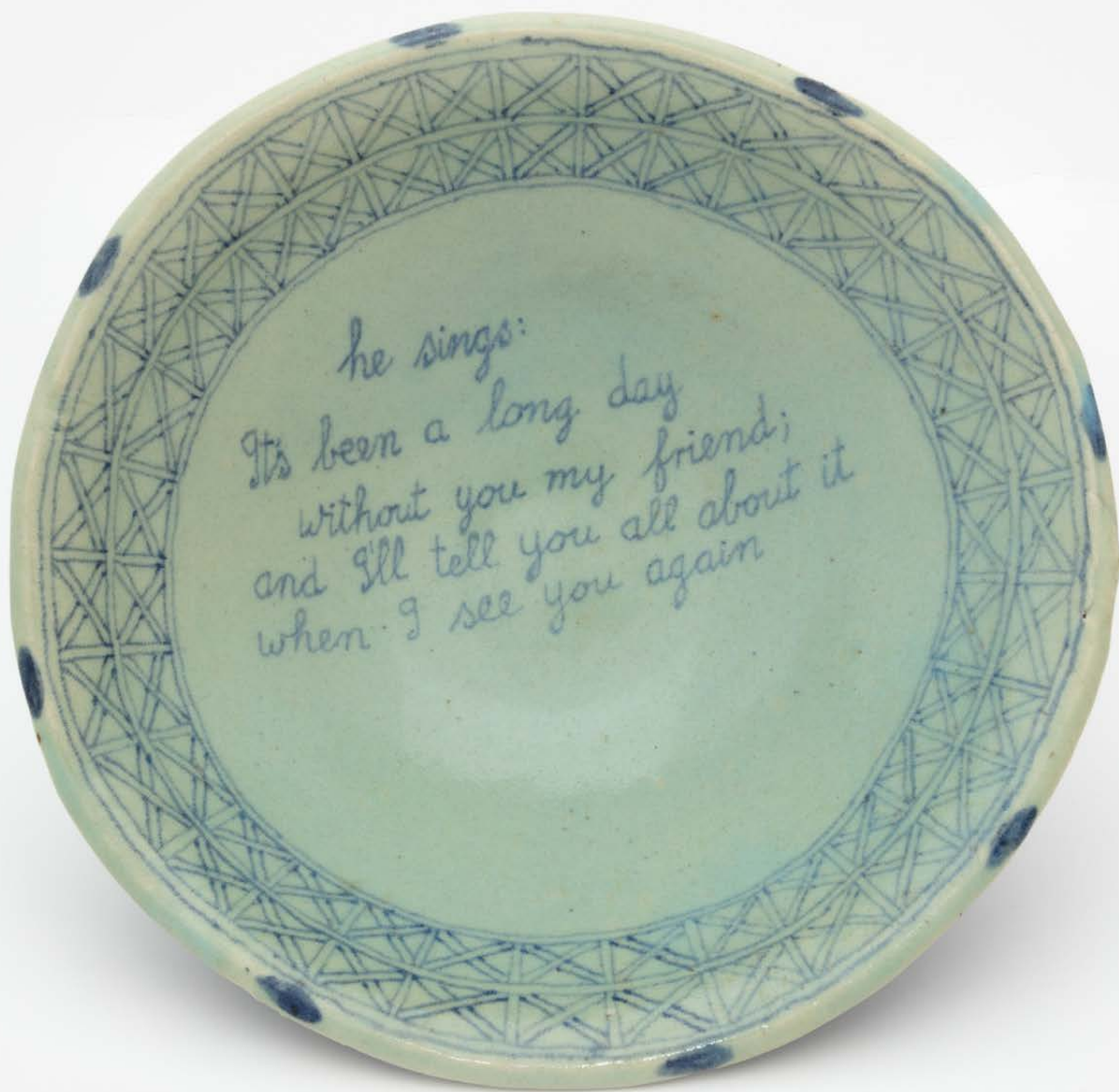


Cock and flowers bowl, 24 August 2015

Glazed ceramic

9 x 25cm

Inscribed NHH



'He sings: It's been a long day without you my friend', 11 September 2015

Glazed ceramic

8.5 x 26cm

Inscribed NHH



Test bowl, 8 March 2016
Glazed ceramic
9 x 23cm
Inscribed NHH



Tattoo of a Russian jailbird bowl, 23 March 2016

Glazed ceramic

8.5 x 21.5cm

Inscribed NHH



Toad bowl, 23 November 2015 & 3 February 2016

Glazed ceramic

5.5 x 18.5cm

Inscribed NHH





Dog bowl, 23 November 2015 & 3 February 2016

Glazed ceramic

5.5 x 18.5cm

Inscribed NHH





Flowers bowl, 30 August 2017

Glazed ceramic

6.5 x 29.5cm

Inscribed NHH





Dancer bowl, 5 September 2017
Glazed ceramic
7.5 x 28.5cm
Inscribed NHH





Yellow bowl with floral motifs, 13 May 2018

Glazed ceramic

8.5 x 25.5cm

Inscribed NHH





Children's drawing bowl, 5 June 2018

Glazed ceramic

10 x 27cm

Inscribed NHH





'Things seen in the fire' bowls, 4 December 2018

Glazed ceramics

Set of 7, 6.5 x 21cm each

Inscribed NHH



'Things seen in the fire', 4 December 2018
Detail from a set of 7 bowls



'Things seen in the fire', 4 December 2018
Detail from a set of 7 bowls



'Things seen in the fire', 4 December 2018
Detail from a set of 7 bowls



Chocolate brown glaze bowl
Glazed ceramic
6.5 x 22.5cm



Celadon-type bowl, 22 April 2019
Glazed ceramic
12 x 26.5cm
Inscribed NHH





Celadon-type bowl with vase and flowers, 22 April 2019

Glazed ceramic

9 x 29cm

Inscribed NHH



Blue birds bowl, 3 March 2020
Glazed ceramic
8.5 x 26cm
Inscribed NHH





Blue creature bowl, 17 November 2020
Glazed ceramic
10 x 26cm
Inscribed NHH



Lady among flowers bowl, 23 March 2021

Glazed ceramic

4 x 26cm

Inscribed NHH



Hylton Nel describes himself as an 'artist-potter', which aptly refers to his interest in painted imagery as well as form and function. Over the past five decades he has developed a style of work that is rich in references to the decorative arts and literary and art historical sources. His plates, bowls, vases, plaques and figurative pieces are idiosyncratically decorated with witty - and sometimes poignant - line drawings and script. His imagery ranges from penises to Madonnas, cats to angels, and his quotes are drawn from poetry and the daily press as well as his observations of the world around him.

Group exhibitions include *Unorthodox*, at the Jewish Museum, New York (2015-2016); *The Magic of Clay* at gl Holtegaard, Denmark (2011); *Art in Clay at IS Art*, Franschhoek (2014; 2011); *The Birthday Party* at the Flow Gallery, London (2012; 2009); *1970-1990: A Legacy* at the AVA Gallery, Cape Town (2011); *The Discerning Eye* at The Mall Galleries in London (2007); *Table Manners: Contemporary international ceramics* at the Crafts Council Gallery in London (2006), and *To Hold* at the Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin (2006). Nel was the Festival Artist at the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees in Oudtshoorn in 2009.

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