

Susan Wraight

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1955, Berkshire, England

1974-1977 Brighton Polytechnic, Brighton, BA (Hons) Three Dimensional Design
1977-1980 Royal College of Art, London, MA Jewellery and Silversmithing

Working in Victoria, Australia

Susan Wraight trained originally as a jeweller but after exposure to the tradition of Netsuke during a museum visit while at college, she was inspired to retain the small scale of her jewellery but to change her medium. Netsuke is a traditional Japanese craft of carving miniature wooden sculptures designed to be used as toggles to hold the obi (sash) in place. Netsuke were widely worn during the Edo period (1615 – 1868). The later popularity of western dress in Japan made their use as an element of everyday wear redundant and Netsuke are now regarded as sculpture in their own right.

Eschewing traditional ivory, Susan works in dense and tightly grained wood such as European boxwood and holly, which retain fine detail. She also uses Tagua nut, known as vegetable ivory, and uses inlays of, for example, amber and mother of pearl. Working in a western vocabulary, Susan draws her main inspiration from nature and manages to imbue her tiny carvings with a mischievous sense of life.

Solo Exhibitions

- 1994 *Susan Wraight*, Australian Galleries, Sydney, Australia
1988 *Misericords by Susan Wraight*, Meat Market Craft Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Chelsea Hospital, London
2018 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Chelsea Hospital, London
2017 *50 Secrets of Magic Craftsmanship*, Elements, Edinburgh
 Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Chelsea Hospital, London
 Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
2016 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Chelsea Hospital, London
2014 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Chelsea Hospital, London
 Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
2013 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
 Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
2012 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
 Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
 Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
2011 *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
2010 *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
2009 *Clare Beck at Adrian Sassoon*, COLLECT, The Saatchi Gallery, London
2007 *Contemporary Netsuke: Masterful Miniatures*, Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA
2004 *HIH Prince Norihito Takamado Exhibition*, Honolulu Academy of Arts, USA
2003 *The Netsuke Exhibition*, Takashimaya Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
2002 *Masterpieces of Netsuke: Collection of HIH Prince Takamado*, Matsumoto City Museum of Art, Matsumoto City, Japan
 Surface and Form, Craftwest Gallery, Perth, Australia
2001 *Contemporary Netsuke: The Kinsey Collection*, Chiba City Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan
1999 *Contemporary Australian Craft*, Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan & regional tour
1998 *Netsuke from the collection of Prince Takamado*, Museum of East Asian Art, Berlin, Germany
 Nature as Object, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
1997 *Contemporary Netsuke: Miniature Sculpture from Japan and Beyond*, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, California, USA
1996 *Out of this World: The Influence of the Natural World on Craft and Design 1880 – 1995*, Crafts Council Gallery, London & tour
1995 *VicHealth National Craft Award*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
1993 *Treasured Miniatures: Contemporary Netsuke from Japanese Collections*, The British Museum, London & Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, USA
 The Art of the Object, Craft Australia exhibition touring Uruguay, Chile and Brazil
 The Woodcarver's Craft, British Crafts Council, London

Selected Commissions

- 1994 Carving for the ceremonial mace of Swinburne University, Australia
- 1992 Carving presented to the Hon. George Bush, president of the USA as the official gift from the State Government of Victoria, on the occasion of his visit to Australia
- 1990 Series of carvings for Mount Stuart, the seat of the Marquess of Bute, near Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Scotland
- 1989 Designed the Dominic Serventy Commemorative Medal for the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union
Two misericords, to replace those missing from the set, Winchester Cathedral, Winchester, Hampshire

Public Collections

Crafts Council, London
Highlands and Islands Development Board, Scotland
The British Museum, London
Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland
The Office of the President, White House, USA
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Henry Kendall Collection, Australia
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia