

# Penny Simons

Insta: penny\_simons

<https://treevenerationsociety.com/penny-simons/>

Penny's work is a fusion of all her studies and lived experience in: textiles, art, design, weaving, bio-dynamics and horticulture.

Her work resonates deeply with the beauty, vulnerability & spirituality of nature. Penny has worked as an artist and designer all her life, alongside the practise of gardening and working in and with nature.

Penny runs workshops both locally and regionally. These and her artworks are formed from a personal practise, working with foraged materials that comes from a place of reciprocity with the earth, all indigenous peoples and our ancestors. In this way, it aims to restore, reconnect and heal.

Her more recent drawings, prints and wall hangings also reference similar themes: the beauty and exploitation of nature.

As an English woman who spent over 30 years in Australia and half of her childhood in New Zealand, she is connected to the indigenous cultures that lie within all these countries.

Her work explores the wisdom, spirituality and artisan crafts, contained within all these and other indigenous cultures around the world. She hopes the reverence her work makes to these themes, brings unity, collaboration, respect, and a constructive way forward, to help heal, protect and regenerate our world.

Penny was one of the founding partners of "Cloth", a Sydney-based bespoke textile design business begun in the 1990s, that produced hand-printed, dyed and constructed textiles for the furnishing and fashion industries.

Prior to this Penny gained a BA Hons. Constructed Textiles, majoring in weaving, from Winchester School of Art, England.

Penny had a studio in the artists collective the SHAC in Roberston, in the Southern Highlands from 2018-2022, and now works from her studio in Addison Road Community Centre Marrickville, Sydney.



## EXHIBITIONS SOLO

- Broadhurst Gallery/Hazelhurst Regional Arts Centre, Gympie. 16th- 26th April 2022  
Fragments of Nature - Joint show with ceramicist Susan Smith
- Return to Nature, SHAC gallery, August 2020
- Fragments of Nature, SHAC gallery, October 22 - November 22 2021

## EXHIBITIONS GROUP

- Arboreal Narratives 2023  
Tree Veneration Society, Woollahra Gallery, Redleaf Gardens, Rosebay, Sydney. April 2023
- Sculptures in the Vineyard, Wollombi. Sept. 2021 & 2022
- Northern Beaches Art and Design Prize, Creative Space, North Curl Curl. August 2021
- Sculptures in the Valley, Kangaroo Valley. Sept 2021
- Salon 21, Exhibition, Aarwun gallery, Nicholls, Canberra. June 2021
- Bowral District Drawing Prize, BDAS Gallery, 1 Short St. Bowral. July 2021
- RGBS, Botanical Garden Sydney, Transformations, July/August 2021
- Earth Hour, Southern Highlands Botanical Gardens Bowral March 2021
- Chan Nan Tien Art Sculpture Award, Nan Tien Temple, Wollongong. Dec. 2020
- Art in the Valley, Kangaroo Valley. October 2020
- Bowral District Sculpture Show, Bowral Art Gallery, 1 Short St. Bowral. 2020
- Harvest, SHAC gallery, Robertson. Jan 2020
- Artists of the Round Yard, Retford Park, Bowral. 2019
- Sculptures in the Garden, Mudgee. 2019
- Sculptures at Killalea Shellharbour. September 2019
- Bowral District Sculpture Show, Bowral Art Gallery, 1 Short St. Bowral. 2019
- The Shac, Robertson. 2019 & 2020
- Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize, **First prize**, See Street Gallery, Ryde. September 2018
- Sculptures at Killalea Shellharbour. September 2018
- Royal Easter Show, Sydney. **Third Prize**, Sculpture category, 2018
- SHAF: Kangaloon, Southern Highlands Arts Trail. 2016
- Emerge Artshow, Oxley College, Burradoo, Southern Highlands. 2016
- Unearthed, Eden Gardens, Sydney. 2016

## GRANTS

- Create NSW Grant awarded: September 2021

## PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

- The Fold - Southern Highlands (online publication):  
<https://thefoldsouthernhighlands.com.au/the-guide/highlands-creatives-artists-penny-simons-weaver-artist-teacher-the-shac-robertson.html>
- The Gardens - Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens - Winter 2021 Issue 129.  
Front cover and article on group show: Transformation
- Book: Beyond the Garden Gate Published 2018
- Article about Willow Artist - Escape Magazine Spring 2017
- About Artist & work - Sunday Life - Country Life January 25th 2015
- Many magazine/newspaper articles on her "CLOTH" partnership between 1992-99

## QUALIFICATIONS

- BA Hons. In Constructed Textiles: Winchester School of Art, England, 1983-86
- Diploma in Landscape Design/Horticulture: Ryde TAFE 2006-2010
- BA Hons. In Constructed Textiles: Winchester School of Art, England, 1983-86

## CONTACT

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