

Start at home

Floor pot, from the Brachina series Milton Moon



About the Artist

Milton Moon (1926–2019) was an Australian potter and a pioneer of the modernist approach to ceramics in the post-war period. Moon was interested in making pots that drew from his natural environment.

An avid diver and bushwalker, his work in ceramics explored the elemental and textural nature of the Australian landscape. Moon spent a great deal of time on the Great Barrier Reef, including on Heron Island and the Swain Reefs, and on Stradbroke Island.

About the work

Floor pot, from the Brachina series, 1997, takes its name from a gorge in the Flinders Ranges on Adnyamathanha Country. Patterned with organic ochre-coloured glazes, it directly references the region's deep geological history. Its painterly quality speaks to the striking textures, patterns and colours observed by Moon during his bushwalk through the gorge.



Materials

- Paper
- Glue stick/PVA if possible
- Pencil
- Camera/phone to take photographs
- Cereal box/tissue box etc
- Cardboard coloured (optional)
- Paint or crayons (optional)
- Scissors

Treasure hunt

Identify and photograph all the things in your home that are made of clay. Tiles, crockery, plant pots, sinks, vases, etc. You might be surprised just how many things around your home have been fired in a kiln.

The Activity

Make your own vessel inspired by where you live

For example, Milton Moon's *Vase, blue-green, green, white, black oxides* references the contours and tones of the rock formations and coral reefs along Queensland's coastline.

- 1 Take a nature walk around your local area.
- 2 Photograph, sketch or collect natural materials that have fallen from trees or plants.
- 3 Select your favourite item to use as inspiration.
- 4 Using cardboard (coloured or cereal or tissue boxes etc) create a sculptural vessel inspired by your object.
- 5 Tear or cut your cardboard into strips and secure each piece to the previous strip with glue. Be sure to curve your cardboard into cylindrical form as you add layers.
- 6 You might like to paint your vessel or embellish your object with drawings from your nature walk.

Milton Moon, *Floor pot, from the Brachina series*, is currently on display in Gallery 16

<https://rb.gy/ht3rx>

detail Milton Moon, Australia, 1926–2019, *Floor pot, from the Brachina series*, 1997, Beulah Park, Adelaide, stoneware, 75.0 x 42.0 cm (diam.); Gift of Milton and Bette Moon 2000, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, © Estate of Milton Moon.

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

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