

Mary van Reyk



Burgher with the Lot

March 11 2022

These pieces were all made, fired, and shown on Dharawal
Country.

I pay my respects to the First Nations Elders and
acknowledge their art making which has recorded the
stories of this country for thousands of years.
I am thankful for the lessons they share in keeping culture
strong and resisting colonisation

Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land



Mary van Reyk's show 'Burgher with the Lot' is an exploration of stories from Sri Lankan, queer and modern Australian culture. Mary uses figurative ceramics to talk about how they intersect in a way which is both playful and thought provoking.

Thanks to: My teacher and 5 star legend Alicia Rodden, Austi Potheads for their support, My loves Christopher John Frape, Amaya Josephine Nina van Reyk and Rusty van Frape, and my family for giving me the stories I get to share.

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HEAPS
* **NORMAL** *

Mother Mary Full of Grace

My dad's family are Burgher (as opposed to Tamil, Sinhalese or indigenous to Sri Lanka). This means we have ties to Dutch culture through colonisation. One aspect of this is Catholicism. It's a common language we share, but also holds a history of trauma. Here is beloved Mary wearing a Daha Ata Sanniya mask representing insanity

Deaf as a Cobra

I live in a white neighbourhood. One day I was walking with a (white) friend and we crossed paths with someone who assumed I was her nanny. She didn't listen when I told her who I was. People are often deafened by the colour of my skin. Here is that woman wearing a Daha Ata Sanniya mask representing deafness (symbolised by a cobra)

Ding Dong

This is the Groote Kerk or Dutch Reformed church located within the Galle fort in Sri Lanka. Here it has crushed the wicked witch from Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz, which was one of my first queer culture loves.

Knock Knock

Kinduri, is a vengeful spirit whose form is a pregnant woman. She knocks on doors at night. If the door is opened by a woman she fades into the darkness. If the door is answered by a man he'll be dead before the night is out.

Budha

They/Them

Ganesh at Austi

On the weekends and holidays there is a brown migration from the western suburbs down to the coast. They bring colour, music and joy. Here is my celebration and thanks to them.

Ravana

Ravana uprooted Mount Kailas with all the might of his many arms. Shiva responded by trapping Ravana under it. To be released, Ravana sang hymns in praise of Shiva for a thousand years using a stringed musical instrument created with his own body parts. Shiva then showed mercy and released him.

Scarlet O'Hara and Hanuman

I think they would be great friends. Both cheeky, wild and strong.

Graveyard Queen

Maha Sonaa is a demon who haunts the afterlife. Her head was replaced with a bear's. Her favourite film is Tank Girl.

Pattini

Pattini is a guardian deity of Sri Lanka. She is the goddess of fertility and health, particularly protection against infectious diseases

Sita Bathing

In the Ramayana, King Ravana kidnapped Princess Sita and hid her in caves behind a waterfall in Sri Lanka. The waterfall was surrounded by lush vegetation and Sita bathed in its pool.

Pregnant Ganesh

Ganesh is the remover of obstacles, and we live in Queen B's world. When I had my 10th pregnancy, after many miscarriages, I made this statue to ask them both to watch over this one .

The Palace

In the Ramayana Hanuman comes to rescue Sita who has been kidnapped by the King of Sri Lanka, Ravana. Here Hanuman and Sita hide from Ravana in one of his palace rooms.

Thank You.