

## Toni Warburton

*Australian, b.1951*

Forms of diminished scale can invoke mind's eye memories that are symbolic and compressed. Within specially staged territory, interactions between small objects may have a coherence and integrity that could be lost if they are dwarfed by placement alongside things in the 'real' world.

The parameters of the shrunken proscenium enable the figures to act, so to speak, in a tableau which encapsulates and estranges a moment in a scene from the social realm of the 'real' world to which paradoxically, these small objects also belong. (1)

The figurine in *The Swimmer Looking* floats outside such safety nets to hypothesise about a phenomenology of seeing and moving.

The *Pagri* one of twelve, represented head wrap and boulder, human presence, earth and plants, in a work about walking through mountainous landscapes represented by twelve larger cone shaped *Sari* forms and laid out in a *Configuration*. (2)

Assembled from press moulded elements from my 'flat to the wall' Curtain and Headland vases, this Table Vase could hold fragments of plants picked whilst walking amongst them.

It is placed on an oval form that alludes to the shape of the field of vision and the frame of an iconic cubist still life. The notion of an inverted tray placed on the folding trestle runs in the spirit of the improvisatory moods of 'making do' that arise from the mobility and adaptation inherent in the portable objects of the bivouac or bush camp.

Hollow solids, stained rose madder mark out space. Ceramics is an art of illusion: 'the potter teaches the earth to lie....'. (3)

1. Adapted from artists' statement in *Australian Perspecta* catalogue, 1985
2. Created in India in 1987-88
3. Maya codex

# IN CONTEXT

## Toni Warburton

### xxx. Stage: Cold War Enigma

*terracotta with painted and decoration*

*29 x 34 x 32.5cm*

**Purchased 1985**

### 62. Seventies scenario (Seaforth pool), 1985

*terracotta with Engobes ceramic pigments and  
glaze*

*35 x 30 x 40cm*

**\$2000**

### 63. Crow Coast (headland vase), 1992

*terracotta with Engobes ceramic pigments and  
glaze*

*38 x 28 x 14cm*

**\$800**

### 64. Swimmer looking

*buff E/W with Engobes pieces*

*4 x 26 x 40cm*

**NFS**

### 65. Table vase, 1995

*press moulded terracotta with white*

*Engobe, 2 sections*

*28 x 33 x 49cm*

**\$900**

### 66. Oval table and trestle, 1995

*craft wood and weathered cedar*

*38 x 8 x 69cm*

**\$250**

### 67. Oval table and trestle for 'Swimmer', 1995

*craft wood & weathered cedar*

*38 x 8 x 69cm*

**NFS**

### 68. Pagri, 1988

*woodfired terracotta with Terra Sigillata and  
ceramic pigments*

*25 x 28 x 30cm*

**NFS**

### 69. Hollow solids - rose madder (4 objects), 1996

*paper clay and rose madder pigment*

*15 x 15 x 20cm*

**\$200 each**

### 70. Four perforated wedge shelves, 1996

*Perforated masonite, rose madder pigment*

*20 x 20 x 30cm*

**\$100 each**