

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jennifer Lee

11 August – 2 September 2010

Liverpool Street Gallery is pleased to announce Jennifer Lee's second solo exhibition in Sydney, on view from 11 August – 2 September 2010, opening on Wednesday 11 August, 6-8pm. The exhibition will comprise 15 new hand-built stoneware vessels made by the internationally renowned Scottish-born, London based ceramicist.

Jennifer Lee, alongside Hans Coper and Lucie Rie (two of the most influential British potters of the 20th Century), is one of the world's foremost contemporary ceramicists, represented by Galerie Besson, London and Frank Lloyd Gallery, USA. Lee's vessels invite associations with both the ancient and modern and time, place and space through the works' colour, form and tactility.

Known for her highly skilled technique of mixing natural metallic oxides into the clay before firing in the kiln, Lee has created a distinctive aesthetic that presents an apparent simplicity and restrained elegance in opposition to the works complex creation. The oxides can be seen in the speckles, bands and haloes of colour that run through the inner and outer walls of each individual, unique piece. Lee is fascinated by how oxides from different countries can react in different ways and sources them when travelling. Interestingly, Lee lays the coloured clay down for several months, even years, to allow mixes to mature. Unglazed and hand-built over a long period of time using the most ancient construction coil and pinch techniques, Lee's creations evoke a journey of endless possibilities of the vessel form and recount her refined understanding of her medium.

Sir David Attenborough writes, "because she does not use glaze, her subtle colours and misty shades come not from a veil draped over the pot but from within its very substance, as in the face of a cliff. There must also be sensitivity to shape and material linked to a kind of daring that comes from an instinctive understanding of both. It is this which fuels true creation and gives her work such distinction and beauty."



Karen Livingstone of the Victoria and Albert Museum writes, "Jennifer Lee's pots have a sculptural presence. Persistent exploration and assured knowledge of her materials and forms is coupled with a visual continuity which she has confidently maintained and expanded upon". Lee states, "I'm very meticulous. I admire the chemist's attitude; experimentation, exploring new materials, the precision of measuring and systemically recording results."

In the *Los Angeles Times*, a review of Lee's exhibition at Frank Lloyd Gallery, Leah Ollman writes, "Lee's creations touch the spirit because ultimately they are collaborations – with earth, gravity, time and motion."

Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1956, Lee studied ceramics and tapestry at Edinburgh College of Art before gaining a Masters of Art in ceramics in 1983 at the Royal College of Art, London. In 1979 Lee spent eight months on a travelling scholarship in the USA where she researched Prehistoric South-West Native American ceramics and visited contemporary West Coast potters. Since then her travels have included trips to Egypt, India and Japan as well as Europe and the USA.

Working from her South London studio, Lee's work has been the subject of two retrospective exhibitions at the Röhsska Museet in Göteborg, Sweden and the Aberdeen Museum and Art Gallery, Scotland. In 2009, celebrated Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake curated an exhibition, titled *U-Tsu-Wa* meaning "vessel", at 21_21 Design Sight, The Miyake Issey Foundation, in Tokyo celebrating the work of Lucie Rie, Jennifer Lee and the German wood-turner Ernst Gamperl. The installation of Lee's pots on water was designed by Tadao Ando. Lee's work is represented in over thirty international museum collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LA and the Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Japan as well as major private collections around the world.

Jennifer Lee will be in Sydney during her exhibition, and will be available for interview by appointment only. For further information please contact Liverpool Street Gallery.