***Peter Rushforth AM*** **(1920-2015)** was a man of outstanding intelligence, creativity and humility. For sixty years he was one of Australia’s greatest artists.

While serving in WWII, Peter was captured by Japanese forces. He was a prisoner-of-war in Burma and Changi from 1942-45. Many ex-POWs might have ended all association with Japan, but Peter embraced Japanese culture and studied ceramics in Japan. One of his greatest friends was ceramic artist Shigeo Shiga, who had been a kamikaze pilot[1].

From 1963 to 1979 Peter was head of ceramics at East Sydney Technical College. He taught and influenced a generation of ceramic artists.

Peter’s work is represented in major galleries around Australia and the world.  His embodied understanding of Zen Buddhism is evident in works produced through a masterful control of form, original glazes, and the difficult and unpredictable alchemy of fire on clay.

Peter lived and worked at Shipley near Blackheath for over thirty years. He had many friends in the Blue Mountains including fellow potters with whom he shared his kilns and his deep knowledge of ceramics. His works were inspired by the landscape, colours, mists and snow of his beloved Shipley Plateau.

This portrait was made in 2005.