



**Nautical Passage**

**R 14,800.00**



Nautical Passage (2025) is a contemporary ceramic sculpture by South African artist Shana Ellappa, created using white earthenware paperclay and shaped into an organic, hand-built vessel. Rich in texture, mark-making, and layered surface detail, the work functions as both a sculptural object and a symbolic container of memory.

Drawing on histories of indentured labour and migration across the Indian Ocean, the vessel references the nautical journeys undertaken by Indian labourers to South Africa, engaging with themes of diaspora, displacement, and postcolonial identity. The form itself appears subtly collapsed and irregular, evoking the fragility of hope and the emotional toll of forced movement, while the textured surface holds traces of gesture and inscription, markings that act as a form of remembrance and archival storytelling.

As a functional object, Nautical Passage transforms when activated: when holding flowers or organic matter, it becomes a living vessel for memory, bridging past and present. This duality between utility and symbolism situates the work within contemporary conversations around ceramic art, conceptual craft, and narrative-based sculpture.

Frame	None
Medium	White Earthenware Paperclay
Location	Cape Town, South Africa
Height	50.00 cm
Width	30.00 cm
Artist	Shana Ellappa
Year	2025

