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## Gold-plated plates

The long, purpose-built table set up for last week's high-powered Powerhouse Trust annual dinner certainly looked resplendent adorned with golden tableware specially commissioned from emerging ceramicist **James Lemon**. It glinted under the lights like an Aladdin's cave.



Ceramicist James Lemon takes his place at the Powerhouse Trust dinner. *CREDIT: INSTAGRAM*

As the likes of trustees **Peter Collins**, glamorous philanthropist **Beau Neilson** and former fashion magazine editor **Kellie Hush** joined senior NSW bureaucrats including deputy arts secretary **Kate Foy** and Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences chief executive **Lisa Havilah**, the cheeky, irreverent inscriptions on each plate came into view: “Beauty has faded but your bank account is 4 eva”, “Bald”, “Horniest here”, “C--k suckers” and “You have the sexual prowess of a damp vacuum”.

Raised eyebrows climbed further when it was revealed the tableware, upcycled from vintage shops, cost \$18,000 – museum bosses clarified they were paid for with proceeds from “private events”.

As for the four large golden bowls which also appeared on the table – each worth \$6000 – PS was told they were on “loan” from Lemon.



The full spread of Lemon's cheeky tableware at the Powerhouse museum. *CREDIT: INSTAGRAM*

A museum spokesperson said the Powerhouse events team had commissioned Lemon to create 100 plates and serving platters for “ongoing and general event use”.

“They will continue to be used regularly in future for a busy schedule of internal and external events, including corporate and commercial events the Powerhouse hosts, which will offset ongoing hire costs,” the spokesperson said, adding the museum had an “important role to play in supporting artists”.

However, insiders have questioned the return on investment, claiming the museum has previously hired plates, albeit simple white ceramic ones, for around \$2.50 a piece for events. However, the museum spokesperson said the premium plate hire rate was \$12, which made the commission much more “cost-effective” in the longer term.