

Objects to Live By The Art of John Meade

A NETS Victoria touring exhibition / curated by Zara Stanhope

Objects to live by. The art of John Meade is the first exhibition to review fifteen years of practice from one of Australia's leading sculptors.

The medium of sculpture is rarely seen in both regional and state galleries in Australia. Featuring more than 17 sculptural works ranging in scale from intimate objects on table tops to architecturally scaled wall works, this major survey exhibition is curated by Zara Stanhope and will be toured six of Australia's leading public galleries regional Australia by National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria.

John Meade is one Australia's leading sculptors. His work been included in significant exhibitions such as the 2006 Adelaide Biennale *21st Century Modern*, Art Gallery of South Australia, *Adventures with Form in Space*, 4th Balnaves Sculpture Project at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and *Orifice*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne. He has been commissioned to


produce major public sculptures including *Aqualung* at Victoria Harbour, Docklands and *Progeny* for Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne. Despite Meade's standing, this is the first occasion that such a significant body of work by this artist has been bought together.

Meade's oeuvre is distinguished by its synthesis of figuration and abstraction. In dissolving the distinctions between sculpture, modern design and everyday objects, his art is a catalyst for the imagination. His work can be fetishistic and seductive; at times comical and often haunting.

Meade is both a master in traditional sculptural techniques and materials and an innovator in his use of newer industrial materials such as polymer resin composites and synthetic concrete. The surface of his works gives the illusion of machine finish when in fact they are laboriously finished by hand. The forms, materials and surfaces of works open up a playful dialogue around the theatricality of display and invite the viewer to speculate on the origins and interrelations of individual sculptures.

"This important exhibition will provide our audiences with insights into John Meade's ideas, the development of his sculptural practice over more than a decade and his significant contribution to Australian art."

Our perceptions of the material world are seen afresh and reshaped in *Objects to live by*.



John MEADE
Double Pin with Heidi Plait (detail) 2008
polyester resin, fibreglass, pigment, calcium carbonate, plastic industrial bristle, stainless steel and concrete
200.0 x 40.0 x 40.0 cm
Courtesy the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

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