

ORBIT

7 May – 30 May 2004

Sculptures by Simon Gilby

In the exhibition, 'Orbit', Simon Gilby's distinctive personal vision is given sculptural form. Refining this approach over the past decade and a half the artist draws reference to preceding decades where science, art and mass media, split and fuse. From this volatile mix of influences the artist has embarked on a deeply vexed exploration of inner and outer spaces.

This series of extremely articulate sculptural works examines notions of what it may mean to 'be human' or 'be not human'. The living body is continually reinvented as a central form around which complex relationships are explored; these often appear ready to collapse and re-configure in a moment. The surface of each body is shaped by hand, inscribed, held tight then opened suggesting that one's histories may be read by looking intently into the surface of the outer skin. The fragmented readings offered, heighten the votive qualities of a life form inlaid with emotion, desire and search for self and other.

A collage of cage like structures offer three dimensional diagrammatic representations of the familiar consumer world. While these inanimate objects tool and enable an existence, they may also take on an interdependence soon becoming mutually parasitic in need and function.

Far from being trapped in the labyrinth of theories where one may soon become hopelessly 'lost in space', or exploring the 'final frontiers' of a 'true modernist', Gilby's sculptures are gently creating ground, touching down lightly, yet with the full gravity of what it means to try to be human.

Jon Tarry, 2004, Lecturer Faculty of Architecture Landscape and Visual Arts, The University of Western Australia.

Since graduating from the Claremont School of Art in 1989 with a Diploma of Fine Arts, Simon has shown his work regularly in group exhibitions, taught and undertaken public art commissions. He has worked with towns and communities across Western Australia, including Albany, Guilderton, Joondalup, Mandurah, Melville, Monkey Mia, Northam, Parkerville, Port Hedland, the Kalgoorlie / Coolgardie Aboriginal communities; as well as for Wise Winery, Eagle Bay.

His work is represented in the collections of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Edith Cowan University, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Murdoch University, and the Parliament House of Western Australia.