
• nellie castan gallery

MEDIA RELEASE

David Ray: Funked Antique

30 June – 15 July 2005

David Ray is one of Melbourne's leading young ceramists, applying critical comment to contemporary consumerism and the less reputable aspects of our national identity through his flamboyant baroque creations.

Lead on whimsical journeys of mythical tales and misadventures through the reinterpreting of classic forms and imagery in a compelling unique way, **Ray's** ceramics confound the modes and materials of contemporary art.



Mix and match of paste-ups of hobby shtick converge with slaphappy hand details that comment on everything from McCorporations, art world elitism, the graffiti art and misplaced royals fever.

Ray explores the juxtaposition between the perception of the beautiful and the ugly. Decoration is incorporated within the body of the work, weaving, twisting and turning, with a confounding plethora of images, motifs and decals, the “glamour of the artificial” colliding, almost in total meltdown!

It is as if the images traditionally adorning vases and urns have been extruded into the three-dimensional texture of these works.

The explosion of form radiates outward to effect the immediate surrounds as well. For there is something so collided and warped about these admixtures of myth, fairytale, vase and figure, that you half expect the gallery to burst open too.¹

A prolific and consummate artist, (born in 1972) this is **Ray's** seventh solo exhibition, his first at Nellie Castan Gallery. Internationally **Ray** has exhibited at SOFA Chicago in 2002 and last year at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia.

1. Paul Magee, *David Ray: New Work*, 2002, Review, Craft Victoria

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level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141

opening: 6 – 8pm thursday 30 june

exhibition ends: saturday 15 july

hrs: tuesday to saturday 11am – 5pm t: 03 9804 7366
