

MEDIA RELEASE

If a dog is a man's best friend and a diamond is a woman's best friend then a pet rock is a friend forever...

My Pet Rock exhibition presented by Pieces of Eight Gallery

MELBOURNE: Wednesday 11 June 2008 - Melbourne's newest contemporary jewellery gallery **Pieces of Eight** presents ***My Pet Rock***, a group exhibition showcasing thirteen international and local jewellery and object designers. The exhibition will run from **Tuesday 24 June** until **Saturday 19 July 2008** at the **Pieces of Eight Gallery**, 635 Brunswick Street North Fitzroy.

As part of the exhibition an eclectic selection of jewellery and object designers were approached by Pieces of Eight to produce works that explore ideas of materiality and sentimentality generated by the exhibition title. It has resulted in a collection of jewellery and object based work that make up the largest exhibition to be held by the gallery since opening in 2005.

Participating artists include Pieces of Eight residents Rachel Gorman and Nina Ellis, newcomers Djurdjica Kesic and Dougal Haslem and international jewellery designers Antonella Giomarelli and Jimena Rios. *My Pet Rock* will be the first of many exhibitions in which international artists are showcased in the gallery space. The designers have been individually selected by gallery director, curator and artist Melanie Katsalidis from Argentina, the U.K, Canada and Australia.

"We are very excited to be showcasing international designers for the first time,' said Melanie Katsalidis. "*My Pet Rock* hopes to contemplate formal and alternative possibilities of what makes something precious what makes something personable, what invokes intimacy and attachment to certain objects or jewellery"

Each artist manifests this dialogue in a highly personal way. For some, it is the qualities of a specific rock; its colour, its sparkle, its origin that is appealing. For others it is the challenge of reinventing a preciousness employing alternative materials such as plastic, ceramic and wood. For all artists, there are definite traces of sentiment and affection underpinning the work.

My Pet Rock officially opens Wednesday 25th June at Pieces of Eight, 6-8pm.

To see a more detailed description of the exhibition and specific artist statements and bios please email amelia@ambiguoushorse.com

Pieces of Eight Gallery 635 Brunswick Street North Fitzroy. Open Tuesday-Friday 11-6pm, Saturday 11-5pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. For more information visit www.piecesofeight.com.au or telephone (03) 9497 8121.