

## Nid Kelly 'Goodbye Robot'

An exhibition of ceramic objects August 10<sup>th</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006

*Join us at the gallery for the opening, August 10<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm.*

Pieces of Eight gallery and workshop is pleased to announce an exhibition by ceramic artist Nid Kelly. 'Goodbye Robot' is a homage to her main subject since 2000. Beautifully hand crafted in fine porcelain, Kelly's robots are presented in different ways and guises. Some are red and menacing, constructed as an army, while others blend into a domestic 'pretty' setting, becoming innocuous and absorbed into their surrounds.

Robots are fast becoming part of industry and our everyday lives. They are no longer the fanciful creations of science fiction, but are fast on their way to becoming an intrinsic part of everyday life. Currently, a French robotic firm is planning to release the first commercial and affordable humanoid robot called Nao to the market by late 2007.

Kelly plays on our anxieties and imaginations in her work, creating her own landscape of robots in this exhibition, with some even flying away, escaping the confines of the gallery. She has also used the form of a Babushka doll to stand in for us humans. Blank, white and faceless, humans are only represented, while it is the robots that take the main stage in this exhibition.

Kelly reflects the current social mood surrounding robots, and by using techniques like mold making, casting, collage and commercial decals she evokes themes of mass production and a loss of uniqueness. The design of the robots reveals a nostalgic feel for early science fiction. The artist was initially influenced by the writing of Isaac Asimov, author of a series of books featuring robots, including 'I, Robot' (1950).

*Nid Kelly studied Fine Art (Ceramics) at Monash University with Honours and graduated in 2004. She currently works from the studio at Pieces of Eight and now she's said goodbye, she's feeling free to change her direction from robots to something all together different.*

*Pieces of Eight is Melbourne's newest contemporary jewellery and object gallery, currently showcasing the work of local emerging artists The diverse collection comprises of original and limited edition works which range from the exquisite to the unexpected. Through our onsite workshop, we can also take on commissions, and work with our clients to custom-make an original design.*

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