

## SIGHTLINES CRITICAL GUIDE



### Machination in form alone

THE awkward, square pink (girl) and blue (boy) robots from 2003 have been refined into archetypal automata: a fat-booted, mohawked, porcelain-red army. Farewelling a six-year obsession, Melbourne ceramicist Nid Kelly also flags new concerns. The robots' metal musculature disappears beneath incongruous decorative patterns — strawberries, roses and sunflowers. And their geometric-expressionist angles are nudged out by folk-modern curves — babushka dolls and Jean Arp clouds. The best things are those with Kelly's own decals: the schematic red robot, truck, helicopter and Kuwait Tower on a set of white babushkas is a small suprematist triumph.

David Hansen

*Goodbye Robot* (Nid Kelly), *Pieces of Eight*, 635 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy, until September 2

PIECES  
OF EIGHT