

Flying the Jolly Roger

When I was eight I dug some treasure out of our quartz gravel driveway. I don't know how it came to be there but I was sure pumped to find a neatly lined-up row of two-cent pieces. My brother didn't believe me back then, and the mystery remains today as to the providence of this suburban lode. I blew the coin on 20 cents' worth of mixed lollies at the local milk bar, and the experience changed my life forever. As treasure does.

These days, I still hunt and I still I believe in treasure. I like pirate-themed movies and listened closely when a friend suggested the eye patch is due for a renaissance. So, naturally, I hove to when I spied Pieces of Eight in North Fitzroy. Alas, there are no pieces of eight at Pieces of Eight but there is plenty of treasure. More contemporary than the name suggests, it is an artist-run workshop and gallery space housing a ship-load of original and limited edition jewellery and objects.

One of the more arresting is Nid Kelly's mini ceramic tableau from *I, Robot*. This intricate recreation of a scene from the movie where robots attend to the business of assembling other robots along a conveyor belt is

depicted in pastel-hued, bisque-fired individual components. It is far more engaging than the movie and worthy of the title treasure.

Now throw away that tatty old map that has you counting out paces in some mouldy old cave and get to where the really treasure is to be unearthed. Blow some doubloons and then bury it all in your own backyard for future generations to enjoy.

Pieces of Eight, 635 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy.
Phone: 9497 8121.

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