



Therese Howard
The Solo

13 Sep – 1 Oct 2006

What is it about Therese Howard's work that is so intriguing and perplexing? They trick at every opportunity, they lure and seduce, they are amusing and disturbing, they ask big questions and provide no clear answers. They set up expectations and then pull out the rug. In other words they do what all significant art does, they impact on our lives in unexpected ways and challenge us to think, to see and to react differently. Ted Snell, catalogue essay 2006

Impermanence and mortality, excess and abundance, youth and overindulgence are some of the themes covered in Therese Howard's September exhibition, *The Solo*.

Howard casts objects in bronze, using the ancient 'lost wax method', then meticulously hand paints each piece. In her placement of these objects, Therese breathes new life into old traditions.

Overwhelming in their intricacy, her arrangements are alluring and inspiring. *Eternal Youth* (above left) Howard carefully places her objects on a dressing table. A bottle of "Youth Dew" spills its contents while the skull of a bird sits atop a leather bound book, who's author is none other than the eternally young, Dorian Gray. The presence of the Wanderer butterfly reminds us that our youth and beauty are short lived.

In *The Sum of Us* (above right), Howard patriotically salutes the traditions of working the land and working together. Inspired by the early German folk tale "The Musicians of Bremen", in this contemporary interpretation of the tale, Howard has chosen animals strongly associated with the land, to reflect an aspect of Australian cultural identity, ingrained in our folklore and history. A fly tops the pyramid of working animals, rotating slowly to the tune of "Click Goes the Shears".

"It is my intention to re-present bronze – in a way that differentiates it from its more traditional associations. The result is a group of works that employs the history of art and theory, to discuss art itself, within a contemporary context". Howard's works are held in private collections nationally and this will be her first solo exhibition.

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Sullivan+Strumpf Fine Art, 44 Gurner St Paddington NSW, 2021 t: 61 2 9331 8344
tue – fri 10 – 6, sat 11- 5, sun 2 - 5 or by appointment. www.ssfa.com.au