

The White Work

new work by

BARRY THOMPSON

Exhibition details

Dates

1-25 August 2007

wednesday - saturday 11am-5pm
and by appointment

Curated by

ANITA TRAVERSO

Director

Consulting + curating

Australian contemporary art

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The White Work

My fascination with Cycladic civilization [3300BC-2000 BC], ignited by my first travels to Greece in the 70s, has remained with me to this day, and become a major reference for my new body of work. The process of ‘crafting’, with slow, deliberate, accumulated efforts, using basic materials like wire, plaster, and paint, is for me as much the building of a personal narrative as it is a commentary on the precariousness and discrepancies of contemporary life.

Inspired by Lucian, the Greek rhetorician and satirist, I cast a playful eye on the intricacies and absurdities of relationships and our connection to the “made world”, the menacing simulacra that surround us.

Borrowing from Egyptian iconography, my figures have a ‘society’ and ‘language’ of their own, each representing a history that is both momentous and negligible in the wider scheme of things. What motivates my work is the extent to which each ‘voice’ is audible and each ‘story’ is validated, despite the impermanence of its nature and the context of its existence.

Ultimately, I am concerned with a kind of archaeology of memory and the desire to preserve the perishable and reclaim the perished.

Barry Thompson
Melbourne 2007



#01 Homage to Giacometti #4 [2006]
plaster, wire, steel, acrylic paint, gesso
38 x 38 x 175H



#02 Homage to Giacometti #5 [2007] 1/10
bronze , steel
39 x 39 x 175H



- 3.1 The Three Graces: Faith, Hope and Charity
- 3.2 Hope and Her Daughters
- 3.3 Faith's Family
- 3.4 Charity's New Lover

#03 Four White Frieze Panels [2007]
modelling compound + gesso on canvas
30 x 30 cm each



#04 Homage to Giacometti #2 [2006]
plaster, paper, PVA glue, gesso, steel
22 x 22 x 126H



#05 The Family [2007]
modelling compound + gesso on canvas
122 x 122 cm



#06 Faith, Hope and Charity [2007]
modelling compound + gesso on canvas
122 x 122 cm



#07 Homage to Giacometti #3 [2006]
plaster, paper, PVA glue, gesso
22 x 22 x 130H



#08 Homage to Mark Rothko [2007]
tissue paper-mache, perspex
90 x 60 x 12.5D



#09 The Artist at Sixty [2006]
tissue paper-mache, perspex
90 x 60 x 12.5D



#10 Madonna of the Box [2004]
plaster, wire, acrylic paint, gesso
29 x 23 x 125H



#11 The Artist at Forty [2007]
paper-mache, gesso
40 x 58 x 87H



#12 The Acrobat [2005-07]
plaster, gesso, wire, steel
50 x 50 x 238H

#13 The Acrobat's Manager [2005-07]
plaster, gesso, wire, steel
50 x 50 x 216H



#14 The Big Dig [1990-2007]
objects on board, perspex
40 x 80 x 102H



#15 Homage to Giacometti #1 [2007]
plaster, paper, PVA glue
21 x 21 x 80H



#16 The Apostles [2007]
clay, gesso, perspex
77 x 29H x 12.5D



#17 The Matriarch [2006]
plaster, gesso, wire, steel
45 x 45 x 202H

