

CHARLES HEWITT

Media release

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Annabel Butler

Recent Works

March 3-30, 2005

Recent Works is a series of paintings of vehicles that are far from ordinary. Breathing 'new life' into 'beaten up' old tractors, trucks and cars Annabel Butler's paintings are anthropomorphic. Discarded vehicles found along roadsides and in paddocks are revived by energetic and expressive brushstrokes on the canvas. Vintage machines are transformed into animated, vibrant and often whimsical personalities.

A former lawyer, Annabel is an Honours graduate from the National Art School.

The paintings in this exhibition originate from two Residencies that Annabel was awarded in 2003. The first was a scholarship to the Chautauqua Institution, USA. Chautauqua is located in a disadvantaged farming area in upstate New York where the landscape is littered with abandoned vehicles. Throughout the summer she painted discarded Ford F-100 pick-up trucks, Dodges, Chevys, old tractors and farming machinery.

After she returned from Chautauqua, Annabel was an Artist in Residence at Arthur Boyd's Bundanon, where she became obsessed with a red Massey Ferguson tractor on the property and she repeatedly painted "Fergie" as he moved around the fields. Annabel's fascination with tractors was fuelled by the excitement of discovering many other older model "Fergies" on neighbouring farms.

The works in this exhibition vary in form and size, from a large painting of a Dodge with a wide grin to a small wooden construction of a family of "Fergies". Some paintings, like that of *Eager Beaver Woodchipper*, appear to have leapt from an illustrated children's book.

In these paintings vehicles are a substitute for humans. Man-made machines take on a life of their own. As Annabel exclaims, "the vehicles in my paintings don't need drivers – they are all taking off and doing their own thing."

GALLERY & FRAMING SHOWROOM

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GALLERY HOURS:

MONDAY - SATURDAY 10 AM TILL 6 PM