

Steel stilettos, lacy steel bras and panties, abstract figures in bronze and steel: award-winning sculptor Jenny Green explores and subverts the allure and perception of beauty in ...



Beautopia

Aphrodite had it. Marilyn Monroe had it. Kate Middleton has it. Society through the ages has identified those qualities - varried and enviable to many - that we idealise as 'beauty'.

Sydney sculptor Jenny Green plays with this ideal in her latest exhibition *Beautopia*, where she transforms discarded steel into objects of beauty. In the artist's major solo exhibition for 2012, she will be exhibiting over 30 new works sculpted from welded steel and bronze in Neutral Bay's industrial-style traffic jam galleries.

Lacy bras and panties and sparkling stilettos suggest the staples of high fashion yet Jenny Green subverts these ultimate symbols of feminine allure in *Beautopia*, creating many as over-sized and bold, made from metal off-cuts and junked steel.

"We are bombarded by the quest for beauty - the 'perfect' body, agelessness and what is supposedly attractive," says Jenny Green. "In this show, I laase the concept of what is femininity, the notion of beauty and what it means to be appealing. ... the soft, warm sides of a woman, highlighted by using cold, hard industrial materials.

"While these works are playful, they speak to how we commonly take beauty at face value, rather than digging deeper to reveal the beauty within," she adds.

Other works in *Beautopia* include *Fraction of the Whole*, an abstract and almost cubist couple in stainless steel rods, which extends the beauty ideal to explore the depths and the transience of relationships, commitment and companionship. Contrasting the strong geometry of this couple is

the abstract *Olympia*, a life-size figure in bronze inspired by Manet's painting, depicting a woman at one with herself and in control of her destiny.

"With my abstract figures I am evoking inner beauty - graceful and thoughtful," Green says. "Their brushed intricacies reflect the tension between companionship and solitude as well as between space and material.

"I play with shape, movement, space and colour. In all my work, I try to capture a moment, a feeling. Many of my sculptures are 'drawings in space' suggestive of both mood and action."

"We are very excited to host Jenny's major solo exhibition for 2012. Jenny has captured the attention of so many contemporary art collectors, enthralled by the strength and complexity of her work," says Rebecca Pierce, Director of traffic jam galleries.

"People are often captivated by Jenny's more

figurative works, as they convey an easy yet dynamic ongoing conversation between the human body and space at large. This exhibition will be an event with Jenny's hanging of steel bras and panties and the installation of giant shoes ... we expect a lively interaction and response."

Jenny Green's work features in corporate, public and private collections. In 2003, Green left a successful corporate career to undertake a BFA (Sculpture) at the National Art School. Since then she has been sculpting full time from her studio in Sydney's northern beaches and has won numerous awards. ■

For more information contact Traffic Jam Galleries
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This exhibition: 3rd - 24th May
Opening hours: Mon - Sun 10 - 6pm
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