



KCGM Media Statement 9th December 2010

The Art of Trucks: Ange Leech

Ange Leech loves trucks. Big trucks, little trucks, transport trucks, mining trucks, all trucks! And in her new series of artworks, Super Series One, she wears her heart on her sleeve.

Over the past two years, Leech has created a series of sculptures and photomontages which playfully evoke the spirit of the Goldfields. Her vision of the landscape is populated with weird and wonderful creatures - part human, part truck.

Also an avid sportswoman, she travelled to Kalgoorlie-Boulder (Leech is based in Melbourne) in October 2009 on a mission to find good running conditions and a like-minded appreciation for trucks and large machinery. Attending training sessions with the Kalgoorlie Tri Club, Leech was inspired by the community's appreciation for both sport and industrious activity. This trip and two subsequent visits inspired her recent body of work *Super Series One*, a collection of analogue photomontages exploring Kalgoorlie Boulder and the local district.

Leech says, "Freight and mining are such huge parts of the Australian economy, culture and social structure. I think we can use creative activity to build a greater understanding of this and help forge stronger ties between mining and non-mining communities, as the industry is often misinterpreted or misunderstood."

Images such as *Richard's Friday Knock Off*, which shows one of her hybrid figures out for drinks on Hannan Street, and *The Kalgoorlie Stallion*, a humorous take on masculinity, put a twinkle in your eye as they simultaneously celebrate and very gently poke fun at the mining culture.

"I think humour and art are powerful tools for communicating and developing relationships. It is my ambition to create artwork that is available and to be enjoyed by various groups of people, beyond the art community" says Leech.

In this spirit, she has initiated and run art programs with local communities and fellow artists and is looking forward to returning to Kalgoorlie-Boulder to participate in more artistic community activities.

Ange Leech's work has received various awards including three of Australia's most respected and prestigious sculpture prizes [Ed Note: The Corporate Toorak Sculpture Prize 2010, The Highly Commended Yering Station Sculpture Prize 2009 and The Noosa Travel Scholarship Highly Commended Prize 2010], and she is the recipient of an Australia Council Artstart Grant. Her *Super Series One* is now exclusively available at the Super Pit Shop.

Media Contact

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More of Ange Leech's work can be seen at www.angeleech.com