

2008 Basil Sellers Art Prize

Mark Hilton

Mark Hilton is driven by a fascination with tragedy and conflict. The work *Knackers* addresses the subject of Australian Rules football; the idolatry, the brutality and the sanctity of players. Loaded with contemporary and historical images, the work reflects Hilton's interest in the role of the peer group, the club and the 'predatory female' in Australia's elite sporting codes.

Mark Hilton was born in Melbourne in 1976. In 2000 he completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Visual Art, following a Bachelor of Fine Art at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne. In 1999 Hilton was awarded the ANZ Visual Arts Fellowship, and established 24seven Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne. His work has been included in a number of group exhibitions, including *Crime lines*, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne (2007); *A portable model of ...*, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart (2005); and *Value added capital*, West Space, Melbourne (2002). Hilton has held a number of solo exhibitions, including *Collective autonomy*, Canberra Contemporary Art Space (2007) and Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne (2006); *Champion*, Bus Gallery, Melbourne (2006); *Knackers*, RMIT Project Space/Spare Room, Melbourne (2005); *Horsestance*, TCB Gallery, Melbourne (2004); and *Gulf ice*, Kings ARI, Melbourne (2004). Hilton has received several grants and awards, including a 2007 Australia Council studio residency in Milan, and is currently a studio artist at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne.

- Coslovich, Gabriella, 'Art gallery again the centre of controversy', *The Age*, 5 July 2004.
- Dwyer, Tessa, 'Slide', *Like*, *Art Magazine*, no. 12, 2000.
- Frost, Andrew, 'How much is that art in the window?', *Australian Style*, no. 62, 2002.
- Gawronski, Alex, *Contemporary art and social justice; how soon is now?*, Warrnambool Art Gallery, Vic., 2006.
- Holt, Stephanie, *Collective autonomy*, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Fitzroy, Vic., 2006.