

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**14 AUGUST 2008**

**COVERS  
FIONA ABICARE**

From 1 November 2008 – 22 February 2009 visitors to Heide Museum of Modern Art will witness the transformation of the Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery from a traditional exhibition space into an opulent interior that recalls a 1940s Hollywood stage-set.

*COVERS* is a new project by Melbourne artist Fiona Abicare that develops her interest in the connections between museum, retail and domestic spaces, and the material qualities and associations of objects in these environments. For this installation the artist has meticulously created an ensemble of objects that both complement and conceal the architectural features of the Project Gallery.

Instead of using the gallery as a site to show her artworks, Abicare conceives of the space as an art object in itself: a complete environment filled with evocative visual props that accentuate the importance of aesthetic considerations such as colour, form, shape, texture and material.

The installation presents this set of objects in two different settings: one on display in the gallery itself, the other documented in two black and white photographs that hang on the wall. The photographs – stylised in a manner recalling Hollywood movie publicity stills from the 1940s – feature the items in a tableau at a hair salon in Melbourne.

The gallery walls are painted to create a homely atmosphere and the space is reconfigured with a specially tailored curtain and a freestanding screen decorated with *faux* volcanic rock and a mosaic of mirrored glass. Other objects include cast gold nuggets, mineral rocks, and two life-size sculptural moulds of a female figure dressed in 1940s style, one of which has been modified by Abicare to function as a table.

Abicare employs innovative materials and technologies to create her sculptural objects, drawing on her professional experience as a mould-maker (for both commercial and visual arts sectors) and her qualifications in fine art and interior design.

Influenced by modernist art, design and architecture, *COVERS* also responds to the history of Heide. Abicare explains, 'through its own invention and history, Heide as an institution has created a very distinct relation to an aesthetic and image – I am seeking to approximate this relation.' In making *COVERS*, Abicare demonstrates an affinity with the modernist principles that the Reeds championed in Australian culture.

This is the first solo presentation of Abicare's work in a public gallery.

Fiona Abicare is available for interview.

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**COVERS, Fiona Abicare**  
**1 November 2008 – 22 February 2009**  
**Heide III: Kerry Gardner & Andrew Myer Project Gallery**

**Associated Heide Public Programs:**  
Artists in conversation  
Sunday 30 November 2008, 2.00pm  
Artists, including Fiona Abicare, in conversation  
Tickets: FREE with admission

**Heide Museum of Modern Art**

7 Templestowe Road  
Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia  
T 03 9850 1500  
info@heide.com.au  
www.heide.com.au  
Tue–Fri 10.00am–5.00pm  
Sat/Sun/Public Hols 12.00noon–5.00pm  
Admission: Adult \$12, Senior \$10, Concession \$8,  
Gardens free

**For further media information:**

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