

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
M E D I A R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 26 MAY

JAN NELSON

Opening: **Thursday 9 June**
Exhibition Dates: **10 June - 10 July 1994**

Jan Nelson's current installation extends her previous work and presents a set of references to ideas about women which focus on sex and reproduction. Through her 'domestically' crafted and endlessly reproducible objects of plaster or basket weaving, we see amongst other things, a milkmaid paid homage, a basket woven in womanly form and Freud and Darwin in conversation. These are representations of ideas about women generally, not actual women, since when the female appears, it is as a figure rather than as a face. In contrast, Darwin and Freud, who had much to say about women, appear as faces, and thereby as individuals possessing character and intellect.

The humour and delicacy which pervade Jan Nelson's sculptures rescue them from becoming overly weighed down by the burdens of their history and invite her audiences to engage both with her work and with the ideas of women which they represent. Plaster casts of objects such as a bicycle seat or turkey baster also connect Nelson's practice to Surrealist and Pop Art traditions.

**For further information please contact Clare Williamson at
ACCA:**

Tel: (03) 654 6422
Fax: (03) 650 3438

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A C C A • Dallas Brooks Drive South Yarra 3141 Australia

Telephone (61) (3) 654 6422 • Facsimile (61) (3) 650 3438 • Director Jenepher Duncan

AFFILIATED WITH MONASH UNIVERSITY

