

The Age "Letters to the Editor" June 9th 2006

### Public art is more than mere sensation

"WILL Red Centre be the new Yellow Peril or Gay Wheat?" (*The Age*, 8/6). Again, this headline reinforces in the public's mind the need for controversy and sensation when each new piece of public sculpture is unveiled. This publicity in itself is not such a bad thing, as it draws attention to a broader audience. But for all the wrong reasons: i.e. hype and sensationalism.

What would be far more engaging, informative and educational for the community would be an insightful discussion with the sculptor, allowing him or herself the opportunity to elaborate and articulate the concepts, traditions and motivation for such works. This might generate more in-depth debate among readers — as opposed to immediate and reactionary commentary.

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