
Media Release: Exhibition

Object Gallery
St Margarets 417 Bourke Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Open Tuesday to Sunday
11am - 6pm (Closed Monday)
Tel: +61 2 9361 4511
Free Admission

Nicholas Bastin: Asakusa Window



Nicholas Bastin, *Favourite Tree* (detail), 2005, PVC, enamel paint, stainless steel and foam

Object Gallery Window 13 May – 9 July 2006

Asakusa Window evokes an ancient culture meeting the plastic fantastic in a completely unexpected way. Connect Japanese fishing boats from the Edo period with deconstructed action figures and slot machine toys, and you have the individuality and fun of *Asakusa Window*, the result of jeweller Nicholas Bastin's 2005 Australia Council residency in Tokyo.

Just as in that astounding metropolis, the very old and the very new converge in *Asakusa Window's* references to fiercely loved aspects of Japanese culture. A miniature fleet of simple fishing boats and its passengers are made from the parts of disassembled action figures. The boats' occupants and cargo are also wearable as brooches, pendants or rings. Most pieces can change from one form of jewellery to another, depending upon the wearer's mood. From a distance, *Asakusa Window* is a magic diorama of a silent Japanese seascape; but up close, Bastin's obsessive attention to detail becomes apparent. Every component of the objects on display has been made by him, down to the tiniest bolt, remade from found slot machine toys and action figures.

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