

Sculpture at The High Court of Australia

by Susan Dorothea White

“idioms in mixed mediums”

Friday, 3 April - Friday, 24 April 1998
Hours: 9.45 - 4.30 (Mon. to Fri.; closed weekends)

The Long Arm of the Law

wood & fabric 250 x 200 x 50 cm

To Cut Both Ways

wood, metal, fabric 107 x 40 x 15 cm

Head in the Clouds

grey limestone 45 x 55 x 30 cm

Stretching the Imagination

bronze maquette 21 x 7 x 6 cm

The critic Dorothy Roatz Meyers described ***The Long Arm of the Law*** in her review of White's exhibition in New York: *“Humour, more pointed than funny, is the thread of continuity throughout Susan Dorothea White's art, regardless of medium. A case in point is “The Long Arm of the Law”. It is created with exactly what the title states... a very long black-robed arm extends out into the gallery room with a legal document in its hand!”*

To Cut Both Ways is another sculpture based on a legal idiom combining woodcarving with everyday materials. Two pairs of opposing hands - those of a black woman and a white man - are clasped together; their forearms become the handles of two pairs of metal shears that are attached at the elbow ends. The pantographic design of the double-scissor action implies that any movement of one pair of hands has a reciprocal effect on the other. The sculpture represents justice and equality.

Susan Dorothea White is a painter and printmaker, as well as a sculptor. Her painting ***The First Supper***, controversial in Australia, was widely accepted when exhibited in Amsterdam and Cologne and now hangs in a public institution in Munich. Her portrait ***Me Recovering from Brain Surgery*** is currently on view at the S.H. Ervin Gallery in the Salon de Refusés, while a similar portrait on the same subject was highly commended in last year's Portia Geach Award. Her work is represented in the Australian National Gallery, as well as in public collections in Germany, Poland, Norway & Hungary. Last year she exhibited bronze sculptures in the *Who's Who in International Art Exhibition* in Geneva, and woodblock prints in the *Impact Art Festival* at the Kyoto Museum. Later this year she will hold a solo exhibition of paintings, sculptures and prints in New York at Montserrat Gallery, Broadway.