



## CANBERRA NATIONAL SCULPTURE FORUM

# A show of ideas and impressions

*First Impressions, maquettes for monumental sculpture, Beaver Gallery, 51 Denison Street, Deakin. Daily 10am-5pm till May 3.*

**F**IRST IMPRESSIONS is an exhibition by members of the Sculpture Society of NSW. Founded in 1951, the society has 150 professional sculptors as members. Its founders included such well-known artists as Lyndon Dadswell, Margel Hinder and Robert Klippel. Among its purposes are the provision of a forum for its membership, and acting as a mediator between sculptors and a potential market.

First I must admit that few names are familiar to me, and without an exhibition listing or any background information I can only wonder at the artists' records.

One exception is Ruth Faerber, best known for her prints and relief images in paper pulp. Her *Ancient Site Revisited*, a proposed free-standing relief, is characteristic of her oeuvre.

The work of a number of individuals is mediated by humanist traditions and the example of the late great British sculptor Henry Moore. I felt I had walked into a time-warp, as if nothing had happened since the 1950s.

But while much of the work here is easily assimilated and familiar, hardly confrontational or provocative, there are some pleasing and formally well-resolved pieces from Diana Hunt, Gaye Porter and Richard Strutchbury in particular. Susan Dorothea White at least attempts an Australian subject in her *Spirit of the Willy-Willy Wind*.

Consisting of maquettes, studies for larger public works, it is a commendable exhibition in that it is expressly directed towards public art of a substantial and lasting nature. In a businesslike way the labels give the proposed medium and dimensions, the former not necessarily the same as what is in the gallery. There are also a number of photographs of individual works which have been taken in such a way as to indicate how a larger version might look in a particular site.