

# Red, white and new

A Chinese art exhibition shows an obsession with consumerism, writes **Tracey Clement**.

**T**he White Rabbit features contemporary Chinese art. Walking into the brand spanking new gallery is a bit like taking a trip into wonderland. There aren't actually any fob-watch-wielding bunnies scurrying about but visitors may feel a bit like Alice after she'd sipped the shrinking potion.

The massive entry space is full of huge, bizarre sculptures, from rotund angels to a pair of pink knickers.

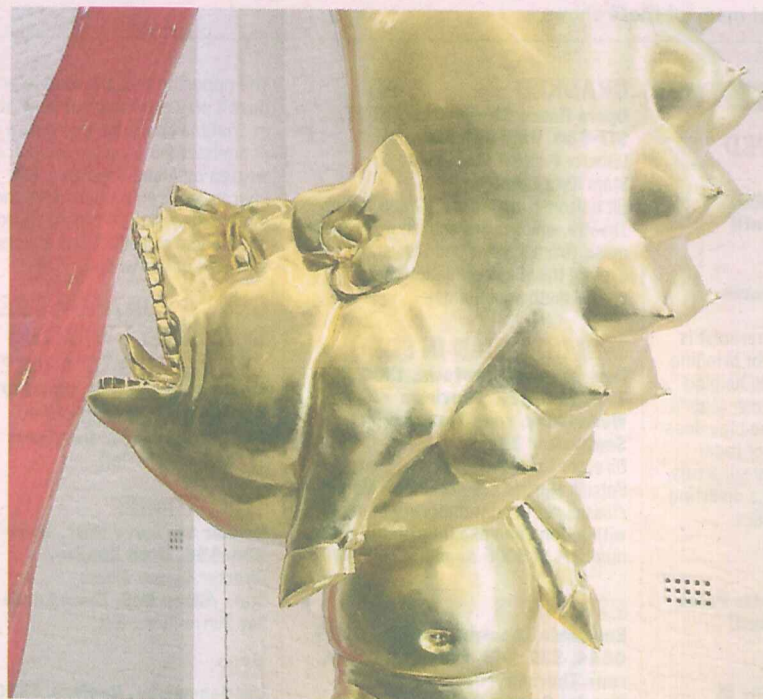
Chen Wenling's *Valiant Struggle No. 11* is an anthropomorphic car with near-blinding spotlight eyes. Its giant, glossy red tongue protrudes 11 metres into the air, dangling a golden pig with an equally metallic man and woman clinging to its trotters. The wall text helpfully suggests that in China, golden pigs represent wealth and



happiness – attributes this couple seem desperate to hang on to.

Upstairs, in Bai Yiluo's sculpture, *Recycling*, an enormous human heart is balanced on the back of a three-wheel bike, tossed among stacks of old magazines, empty plastic bottles and other disposable debris.

As you might expect from a society still in the first giddy flush of



Wenling's *Valiant Struggle No. 11* (above) and Furong's *Tomb Figures* (left).

a love affair with capitalism, the remnants of consumer culture are a recurring theme. But sex, politics and other issues get a look in, too.

Chen Lingyang uses colour photography to document a year of her menstrual cycle in forensic, yet poetic, detail – providing way too much information.

On the political front, ex-seamstress Sun Furong makes a

statement with her scissors in her *Nibbling-Up Series – Tomb Figures*. She shredded 100 Mao suits, which stand silently, passing judgment on the end of an era.

**THE WHITE RABBIT**  
Thursday-Sunday, until February, **White Rabbit Gallery**, 30 Balfour Street, Chippendale, 8399 2867.

## METROPICKS

### Alexander Seton

In his solo show, *Assembly*, the Sydney-based sculptor uses old-school carving skills to create one-of-a-kind marble replicas of mass produced white T-shirts emblazoned with bold graphics. Last days, **today, tomorrow and Sunday**, **Sullivan+Strumpf Fine Art**, 44 Gurner Street, Paddington, 9331 8344.

### Woodstock 40th Anniversary Exhibition

Four photographers present snaps from the infamous music festival. The crowd scenes are as fascinating as shots of stars, such as Hendrix and Joplin. Henry Diltz's post-party photo, *After Woodstock*, resembles a bombsite. **Tues-Sat, until August 25**, **Blender Gallery**, 16 Elizabeth Street, Paddington, 9380 7080.

### Big Aussie Icons

More than 40 artists use sculpture and printmaking to explore the Australian obsession with big things, from real monuments like The Big Prawn to hypothetical structures such as The Big Bra. **Tues-Sat, until August 29**, **Hardware Gallery**, 263 Enmore Road, Enmore, 9550 4595.