

**Studies in contemporary Australian  
sculptural practice:  
Hilarie Mais and Fiona Hall**

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**AE Sanders**

November 2004

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A thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Arts of the Australian National  
University

**Department of Art History  
The Australian National University**

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I declare that this thesis is entirely my own original work and all sources have been acknowledged. All rights reserved.

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# Synopsis

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The subject of this thesis is contemporary Australian sculptural practice. Within the limitations of a Master of Arts sub-thesis, it aims to provide an analysis of developments in contemporary Australian sculptural practice since 1980. This analysis is conducted within the context of the theoretical frameworks of postmodernism, feminism and postcolonialism.

The first chapter seeks to establish a general overview and context, both nationally and internationally, for the significant changes and developments in contemporary sculptural practice in Australia. Specifically, three key theoretical concepts are identified as major protagonists of these changes. The second and third chapters seek to provide specific examples of these theoretical concepts identified in chapter one within the context of two monographic case studies of mid career sculptors, Hilarie Mais and Fiona Hall.