



Jonathan Thomson

# Gilded Youth

**Slot Gallery**

**39 Botany Road Alexandria  
Sydney NSW Australia**

**13/1/2019 - 9/2/2019**

Jonathan Thomson

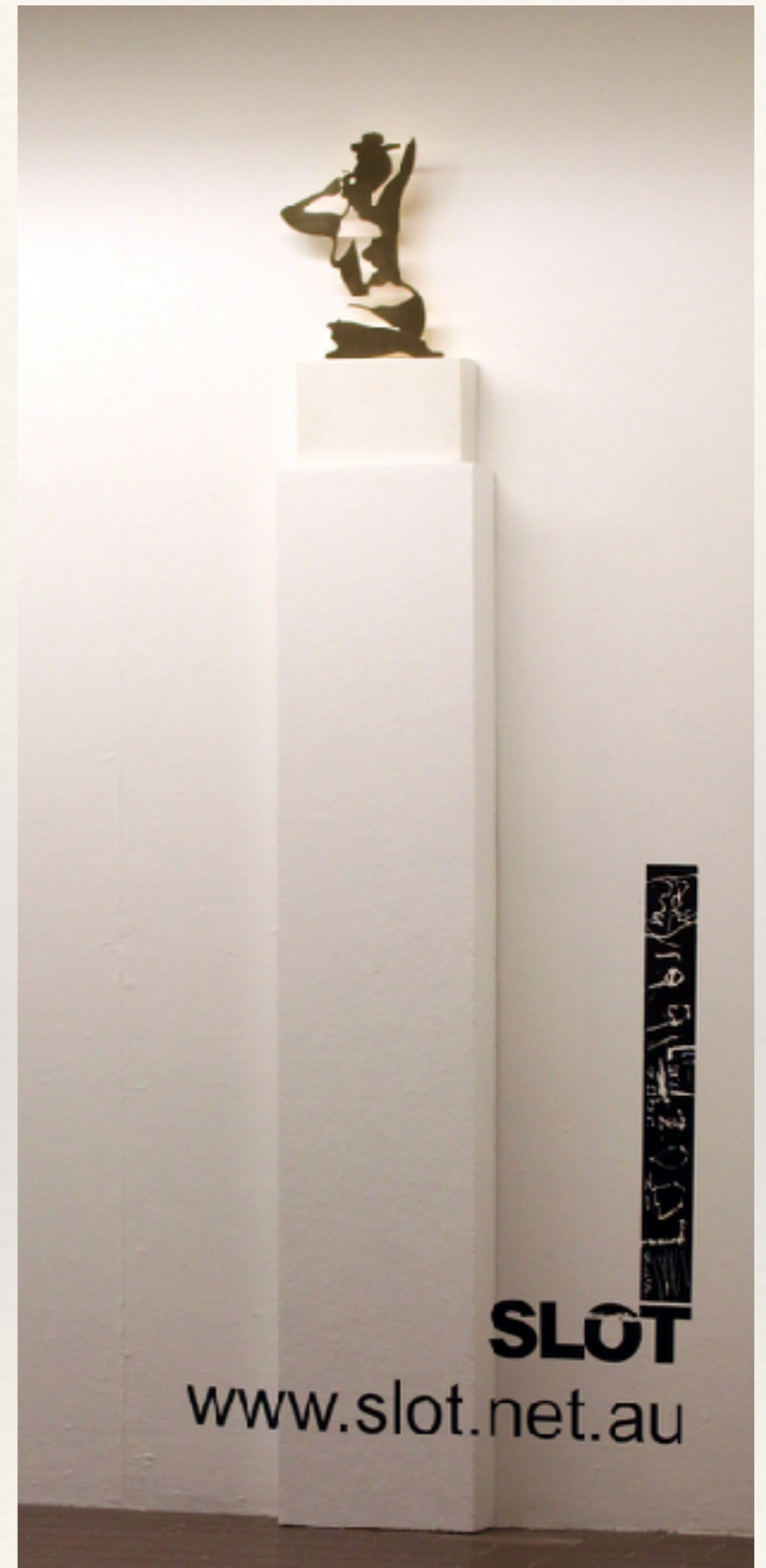
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# Gilded Youth

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The sculpture “Gilded Youth” is an ironic comment on the place of materialism in contemporary culture and the shallowness of celebrity. It is also a rueful reflection on the transience of youth.

The sculpture comprises a bright shiny gold-coloured brass sculpture of an idealised young woman mounted on a high pedestal to elevate it above the heads of ordinary people.



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The phrase “Gilded Youth” (“jeunesse dorée”) was first used during the French Revolution of 1789 to describe the well dressed dandies who became the street fighters of the revolution in support of the shaky new democratic government.

It quickly came to be used to describe all young people of wealth, fashion and flair.





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Today, “Gilded Youth” suggests affluence, youth, fashionable elegance and style. The concept of “Gilded Youth” is aspirational in nature and in our celebrity-driven culture we choose to put these “chosen ones” up on a pedestal of idealisation.

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The “Gilded Youth” sculpture is part of a series that examines the shadows that are cast by a human body onto itself. The anatomy of the subject's body creates the shape of the shadow and also provides the form of the field onto which it is projected. The body thus becomes a vehicle for the abstraction of light.

By focussing on the shadows, this work privileges aspects of the visual world that are very often overlooked or disregarded.

