

NG ART GALLERY MEDIA RELEASE

ERIC LOBBECKE • ARTWORKS & POLITICAL CARTOONS

THE BELGIAN EMBASSY, CANBERRA • 24 NOVEMBER - 26 NOVEMBER 2011



Eric Lobbecke *The Refugee Storm* 2011 33 x 24.7cm



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three little queen street chippendale nsw 2008 tel 9318 2992 ng@ngart.com.au www.ngart.com.au
ng art gallery tue — sat 11am — 10pm **mission** tue — fri 11am — 10pm sat 9am — 10pm

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Can you picture an exhibition where Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd dance a tango in matching, sparkly outfits, both of them wielding daggers menacingly at each other? Or an image of Kevin Rudd meekly offering a bouquet of flowers to an intimidating Hilary Clinton, disguised as the Statue of Liberty? It wouldn't be surprising if your answer was no, but rest assured the political cartoons of Eric Lobbecke will prove you wrong.

The Belgian Embassy and NG Art Gallery, Sydney are proud to host this exciting collection of Eric Lobbecke's satirical cartoons and fine art paintings. Plucked from the usual contexts of newspaper and gallery, these works will be show together for the first time in the distinguished surrounds of the Belgian Embassy.

The exhibition will be opened on Thursday 24 November at the Belgian Embassy, Canberra, from 6 - 8pm.



Eric Lobbecke *The Political Times* 2011 16 x 32cm



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Eric Lobbecke *The Rose* 2011 Oil on canvas 40 x 45 cm



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It was after spotting one of Lobbecke's cartoons, published daily and for the past twenty-two years in various national newspapers, that the former Belgian Ambassador in China, Patrick Arnaud decided to create an exhibition of Lobbecke's work. This particular cartoon was depicting Chairman Mao as an ABC reporter with his ear-phones in, an illustration that appealed to his ambassadorial roots. Now the Belgian Ambassador in Australia, he has kept his promise and will open Eric Lobbecke's first exhibition at the Belgian Embassy in Canberra, featuring a mix of cartoons and fine art paintings.

Lobbecke certainly knows how to create a good cartoon. Given only two and a half hours every day from when he is given the news items to when the image is due, there is no margin for error. "There are two important elements", he says: "the first is character recognition, as stylised as they are the audience has to be able to recognize what political character is being satirised. The second element is for the cartoon to hit a raw nerve with the audience, for this to happen they need to know about politics themselves": Lobbecke can't do all the thinking!

The fine art paintings included in the exhibition are from his previous shows: Depouiller and Conversations with Nature both shown at NG Art Gallery in Chippendale. When asked what the difference is between his fine art pieces and cartoons Lobbecke answers "cliché and ambiguity". For a cartoon to capture a reader's attention it needs to be filled with cliché immediately capturing the audience's attention and recognition within the first fifteen seconds: that's all the time he's got. In his fine art pieces Lobbecke is allowed to breathe and relax leaving many of his pieces with an ambiguous quality, relishing in his audience taking their time to think about, analyse and understand each piece. Featuring voluminous amounts of flesh and the complex interplay of nature and bodies, the oil works compliment Lobbecke's cartoons with a sense of quiet intrigue.

Inquire if Lobbecke includes his own political outlook in his cartoons and he will respond that his cartoons only "illustrate someone else's opinion". But, then again he will admit with a snigger, that the bi-partisan nature of his cartoons allows him to make fun of all the politicians, in this respect he holds no sense of prejudice, just good old-fashioned satire.



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Eric Lobbecke *The Green Kiss* 17.8 x 32cm 2011



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Eric Lobbecke *The Rugby SMALLWORLD Cup* 2011 30 x 24.7cm



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Eric Lobbecke The Last Tango 2011 17.1 x 32cm



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Lobbecke

Eric Lobbecke *Gaddafi* 2011 15.4 x 32cm



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Eric Lobbecke *Diplomacy* 2011 14.1 x 32cm



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Eric Lobbecke *The Democratic Cleaning Party* 2011 16.8 x 32cm



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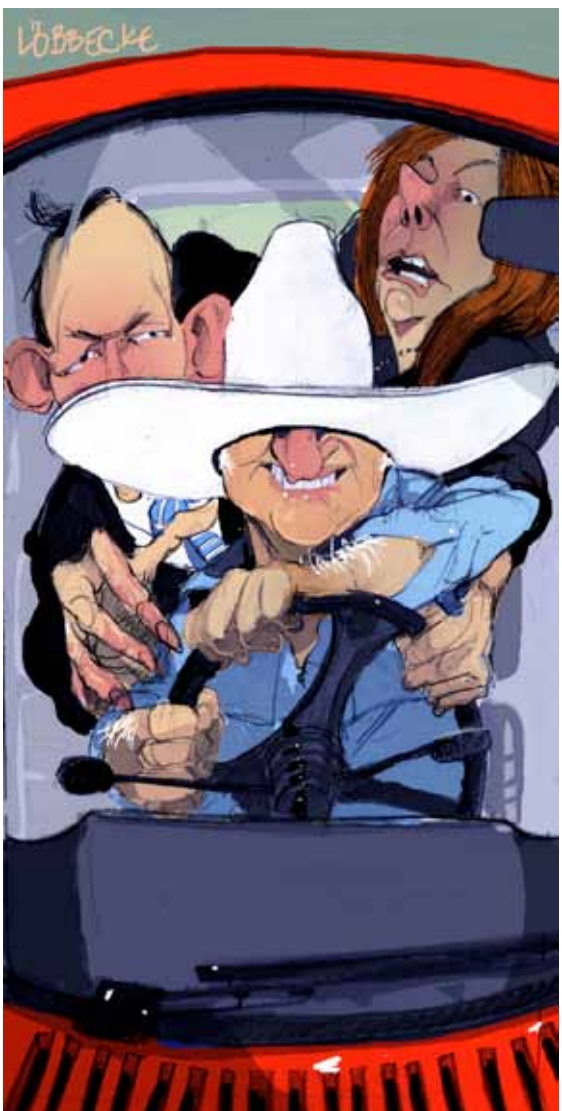


Eric Lobbecke *The Pink Bat* 2010 16.2 x 32cm



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Eric Lobbecke *Driving KATERstrophy* 2011 15.5 x 32cm



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Eric Lobbecke *Bin Laden* 2011 15.7 x 32cm



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