

# FOREWORD

## HELLO KIRSTEEN PIETERSE

SCULPTOR

It's not every day an artist has the likes of Cate Blanchett and her husband, writer Andrew Upton, showing up at their exhibition. But sculptor Kirsteen Pieterse did one better – she sold a drawing and a sculpture to the famous couple earlier this year.

"It was pretty cool," Pieterse recalls in her soft Scottish accent. "I don't know folk like that."

The stylish brunette may soon have a few more famous clients, having been a finalist in the ABN AMRO Emerging Artist Award this year, a finalist in the National Gallery's Sculpture Prize last year and a winner of the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize in 2004.

The 35-year-old grew up with her elder sister in Catrine, a village near Glasgow. But it wasn't until Pieterse moved to Sydney in 2000 with her Australian lawyer husband that she was at last free to pursue her dream of becoming an artist. She taught media part-time at Macquarie University, worked as a waitress and was about to make sculptures to sell in nurseries when a dismayed friend told her flatly to "just make stuff and get it out there".

Pieterse, who often works in white with intricate, multi-textural shapes, is photographed here with her latest work, *The Lee Side*. It's part of an exhibition that opens this week at the Martin Browne gallery in Sydney's Potts Point.

To concentrate on her art, Pieterse has resigned from her teaching job and tossed nursery sculptures into the bad-idea basket. She does, however, still wait tables two days a week. "I like the regular money," she laughs.

Report Toni Eatts

Photography Andy Baker

HAIR AND MAKE-UP: YOLANDA LUKOWSKI

