

F!NK Fostering Design: Australian aluminium design

curated by Merryn Gates



Curated by Merryn Gates, F!NK Fostering Design highlights the role of Robert Foster as the creative force behind F!NK and the partnerships he has fostered with other emerging Australian designers. The exhibition features a retrospective of the entire F!NK range, shown alongside objects designed by Robert Foster and the talented designers he has worked with. This important exhibition will travel to Washington USA to show at the Australian Embassy in September 2008.

F!NK and Co. is one of Australia's best in the field of innovative design and has gained an international reputation as a spirited and distinctive Australian design company. In its ten years of operation the company has realised Foster's vision of being a company of designers. With over 19 years experience in the arts and design field, Robert Foster, the founding member of F!NK, has gained an international reputation as a silversmith and designer with work found in the collections of most of Australia's major arts institutions.

The exhibition draws upon Foster's skills in working with other designer makers. His shared experience with other artists through formal mentorships, collaborations and invitations to design for F!NK, is highlighted through collaborations with Elizabeth Kelly, Sean Booth, Bronwen Riddiford, Rachel Bowak, Oliver Smith and Rohan Nicol. The exhibition demonstrates F!NK's commitment to its local community and developing Australian design internationally.



Image credits: (top left) Designer **Robert Foster**, principal of F!NK and Co. with his signature *Water Jug*, in production since 1994 (bottom, left to right) **Elizabeth Kelly**, *F!NK Shot Glasses*, 1998, pressed and blow-moulded glass; **Sean Booth**, *F!NK Candelabra*, 2005, anodised aluminium and stainless steel; **Bronwen Riddiford** and **Robert Foster**, *F!NK Wine Chiller*, 2003, anodised aluminium and rotation-moulded plastic; **Rachel Bowak**, *F!NK Platter and Condiment Trays*, 2003, anodised aluminium and stainless steel; **Oliver Smith**, *F!NK Fatware*, 2005, anodised aluminium; **Rohan Nicol**, *F!NK Bracelet*, 2006, hard-anodised aluminium. All Photos: Damian McDonald.