



# Double-Bill Lecture

## Almost Human

### The Animal in Nineteenth-Century Art

Robyn McKenzie and Alison Inglis are graduates of the Art History program of Melbourne University and are well known to Melbourne audiences as expert and popular speakers, commentators and teachers in the areas of contemporary art, nineteenth-century Victorian painting and Art Curatorship. Don't miss this great opportunity to hear them together address their longstanding interest in animal imagery in the Victorian era.

#### **ROBYN MCKENZIE: Anthropomorphia: A Story Told Through Pictures**

The mainstream of modernist rationalist thought takes anthropomorphism to be simply an error, and the art that expresses it as either comical, or plain bad. The anthropomorphic impulse is more interesting, pressing on the neuralgic trigger point of our myriad relationships with animals. Using 19th-century images, this lecture explores the implications of the anthropomorphic impulse for the human/animal relationship.

#### **ALISON INGLIS: The Animal as Superhero**

The Victorian age was the first to recognise the 'humanity' of animals. Animals in painting and sculpture no longer simply exhibited emotions, they became protagonists engaged in acts of heroism and sacrifice. The great 19th-century examples of animal art demonstrate an extreme anthropomorphism that leads to a 'blurring in the distinctions' between man and beast. This lecture will argue that the underlying conceptualisation of heroic animals has re-emerged with new vigour in popular culture, especially in its cinematic forms.

**Monday 8 October**  
**Elisabeth Murdoch Theatre**  
**University of Melbourne**

**FAN Members Drinks from 5.30 — Book launch of  
 Art, Site and Spectacle at 6.00 — Lectures 6.30**



Membership of the Fine Arts Network (FAN) is \$65, \$40 students with photocopy of student card; Joint \$80 and includes a copy of *Melbourne Art Journal*, as well as numerous other benefits. <http://www.melbourneartjournal.unimelb.edu.au/FAN>

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