

COX  
GALLERY

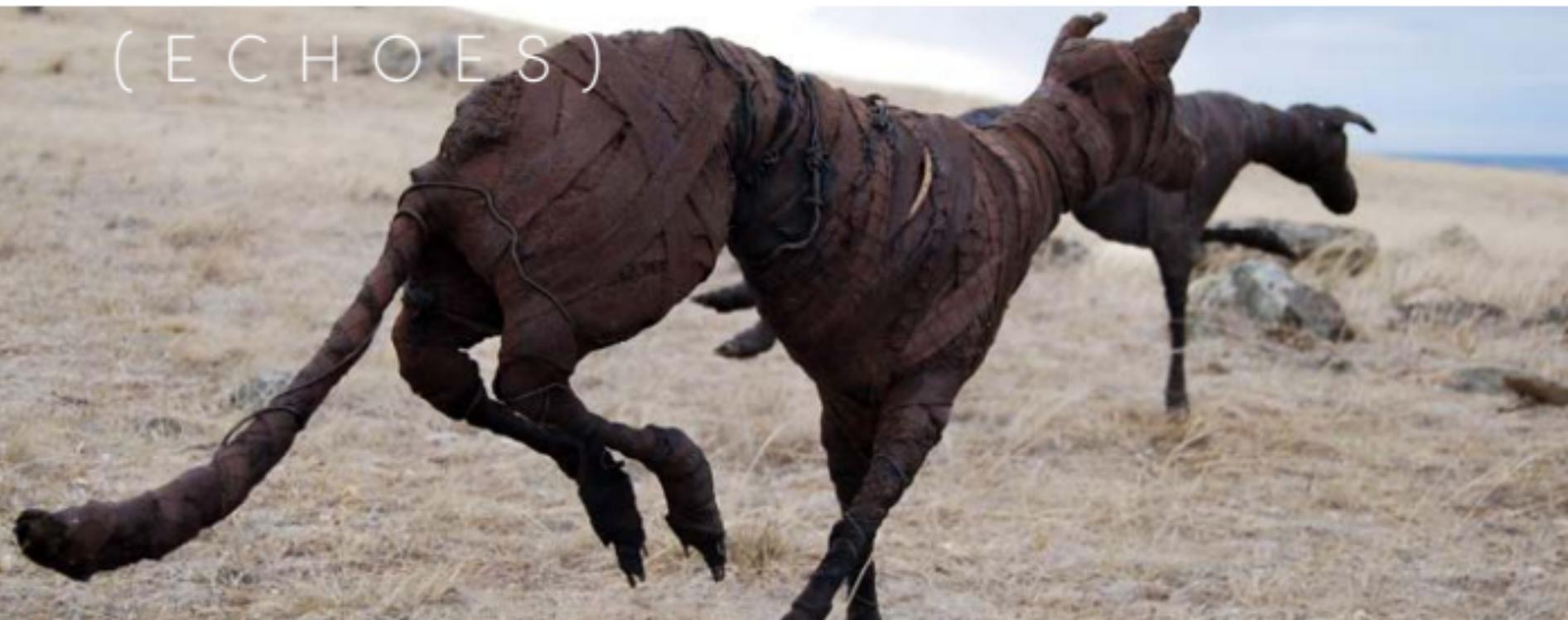
# MONGREL COUNTRY

AMANDA STUART

**5.30PM THURSDAY 31 AUGUST**

1/19 EASTLAKE PDE KINGSTON

(ECHOES)



# MONGREL COUNTRY (ECHOES)



AMANDA STUART

1 SEPTEMBER – 8 OCTOBER 2017

# MONGREL COUNTRY (ECHOES)

This most recent incarnation of Amanda Stuart's wild dogs pays tribute to the ancestry of a prominent public art work installed in the heart of Civic: *bush pack* (2011). The City Walk art work was cast in silicon bronze from the original forms shown here.

Amanda creates artwork inviting the re-imaginings of old, unhealed wounds between humans and unwanted animals. **mongrel country (echoes)** explores the place of the wild dog in the human consciousness, with particular focus on contested relationships between Canberra region farming communities and wild dog populations.

Materiality is a crucial aspect of this work. The forms are constructed from steel armatures, in proportions taken from the bodies of deceased wild dogs. The frames are bound with tannin-soaked textiles (farmer's pyjamas) and found objects associated with regional environs (fence wire, barbed wire, bones). The tannic acid compound used on the binding is derived from wattle bark, once used by dog trappers to preserve animal skins. The dogs are installed into a platform, which references a shearing shed floor.

The binding of the forms serves as a bitter metaphor for the complex human/canine relationships typical in regional Australia - the farmer is both reliant upon the working dog, but also at the mercy of wild dog predations.

This work was originally constructed for Amanda's PhD in Visual Arts (Sculpture). It has been re-visited as part of the ANU School of Art and Design's 40th Birthday celebrations.

RED DOG, DASH, FEIST, BUNDY,  
SKIP, KALIE, JUNO

2008, RESURFACED 2017

Mild steel, textiles (farmer's pyjamas), fence wire,  
bones, tannic acid, lanolin, recycled wood)

PRICE ON APPLICATION

(FORMS CAN BE CAST IN EITHER BRONZE OR CONCRETE)