

retailtherapy



with Michaela Skilney

## Artefacts and fictions

Let the spirit of creative objects brighten your world

**M**y year 12 art teacher would be proud. I've made an effort of late to visit more art galleries and just commissioned my first piece of art, a retro stencil art canvas by Melbourne artist Simon Cunningham. There's something about being surrounded by creative objects that makes you feel the same way. Pencil in a visit to these stores and feel inspired.

### Beyond the cliché

If you have a visitor to Melbourne in your midst you have to take them to this store. Melbournestyle is a new gallery and design store that specialises in pieces of art and gifts made by Melburnians that truly represent this city's style. You will find books, home wares, soaps, jewellery, artworks, gift wrap, cards and t-shirts; the most amazing aspect is just how

much of the product is made by store owner Maree. Everything in the gallery plays on Melbourne's unique sense of humour and culture with clever objects like "Melbourne Cup" cups and fluorescent tennis ball-inspired coaster sets that represent our annual Australian Open. Well worth a look, even if you're a local.

*Melbournestyle, 155 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne, call 9696 8445 or visit [www.melbournestyle.com.au](http://www.melbournestyle.com.au).*

### Immortalise yourself

You don't have to be a Greek god or a politician to get immortalised in stone. Melbourne sculptor Damian Meehan will do it for you with his customised portrait sculptures. Damian will hand-sculpt a glazed earthenware figurine from photographs of you.

