



Rona Green
HOLD FAST

I have the good fortune of living with a print by Melbourne based artist Rona Green that depicts my beloved dog Ruby who passed away some four years ago. In this image, Ruby proudly displays two tattoos. One is of two hearts locked together with a padlock on her chest and the other is of a tomato on her arm, significant symbols of our significant relationship.

Green has a passion for animals and a talent for depicting them, particularly the links that bind humans with their companion animals. They are adorned within their fur, skin and feathers by icons, tattoos, piercings and tight T-shirts.

In her work Green uses companion animals for social comment through anthropomorphic depictions. She combines “*humans admiration of animal attributes as well as humans imbuing the animal with human attributes*”.¹ Just like the archetypal sailor bearing a tattoo of an animal they admire such as the panther, Rona’s pets wear similar totems, skulls, spiders and tribal motifs to name a few, and text declaring “I love fish + chips” and “cut here”. Her pets include tattooed dogs, birds, cats and rabbits.

Theodor, a linocut print, depicts a dog donning a muscle T-shirt, a queer look in his eye, perhaps commenting on an animals sexuality, where there appears to be no boundaries, one day humping the female dog next door, today the male dog down the road. Where humans seem to have to label each other endlessly, sexual stereotyping being one form of this, *Theodor* looks at you with a slight smirk, daring you to question.

Technically, the work is flawless, arresting the viewer with striking and humorous satire. Rona’s work presents us with the misfits of society, at times animals, at times humans, and comments on identity. The images are accessible and for those who have always fantasised about getting a tattoo but fear the permanent marking of your skin, look no further.

Deborah Williams
Visual Artist based in Melbourne

1. Conversation with the artist 3/3/2010.



Theodor 2008 linocut, ink & watercolour 76 cm x 56 cm edition 13



Jacky 2009 linocut, ink & watercolour 76 cm x 56 cm edition 13



above: *Our Frank* 2010 linocut, ink & watercolour 28 cm x 38 cm edition 23

cover: *Tomas* 2010 linocut, ink & watercolour 66 cm x 56 cm edition 13

Rona Green

HOLD FAST

1 - 20 December 2010



The Art Vault

43 Deakin Avenue, Mildura VIC 3502

www.theartvault.com.au

opening hours:

Sunday - Monday 10am - 2pm, Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

Tuesday closed

catalogue published by Rona Green ISBN 978 1 921179 82 2 edition 1000

www.ronagreen.com

Rona Green is currently undertaking a Master of Fine Arts
at the faculty of Art & Design, Monash University

 **MONASH** University
Art & Design