

# Out of the smoke

Late last year Project Services, a business unit of the Queensland Government Department of Public Works, approached me in regards to the new fire station being built at Durack in South East Queensland. The Department of Emergency Services was looking for an artist to design and produce a new public artwork, on a modest budget, that would be impressive enough to draw the publics' attention to their new station.

Shortly thereafter, I produced a scaled down model of what I envisaged the work to look like, and a concept design brief, articulating all aspects of the proposed piece. At my first presentation with Emergency Services, it was evident that all parties were more than happy with my proposal, and I was given approval to commence to the next stage.

I approached several manufacturers to request a quotation for the piece, and also investigated their ability to produce a unique work using an optical device that hadn't been done, outside of my own studio. It was important to me to work with a company that I could rely on, both in terms of being sensitive to the aesthetics of the work, as well as assuring its durability.

Eventually, through a high recommendation from a fellow artist, I found the Albert Smith Group. Soon after my first meeting with them, I was provided with a realistic budget, a list of materials, drawings, and product guarantees that made me feel assured that I was in the right hands.

The result is a stainless steel framed, double sided, glass faced object that holds within each side, life size images of firefighters in different action poses; one gripping an open hose and the other embracing the

'jaws of life'. What makes the images intriguing and extends the impact of the drama involved, is an optical device that creates a three dimensional illusion of the figures emerging in action, seemingly from a smoky environment.

Titled 'Out of the Smoke', the artwork now resides outside of the Durack Fire Station on Blunder Road, and is a visual reminder to all those passing by, of the multitude of tasks, services and sheer courage the firefighters provide for the community at large.

Kim Demuth – Artist



Photography: Rick Lodge - ASG

