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Kerbing the hype

Off the Kerb is a new addition to inner-city Melbourne's thriving ARI scene, supporting emerging and established artists and curators from Australia and elsewhere. Founded by Shini Pararajasingham, the gallery offers 3 exhibition spaces and 2 studios at affordable rates. Currently showing as part of Melbourne's Fringe Festival (and as the gallery's inaugural Emerging Artist Encouragement Award) is *Used Car (part)* from Afghanistan, a single work by Van Thanh Rudd which continues his critique, through found objects, of Western media's slant on the Middle East'. 'Van observes that the western mass media depicts the car in the Middle East as unpredictable, fractured and unmanageable; for example, through its usage as a weapon', writes Caroline Tang. The work displays a car fragment sourced from Afghanistan as historical artefact. Runs 18 September to 16 October. www.offthekerb.com.au