

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

IN THE GALLERIES

KARLA MARCHESI: HANG-UPS

There are a number of intriguing counterpoints at play within Karla Marchesi's thinly applied oil-on-board paintings. Though her gradient backdrops - rendered in a softened, neon palette - whisper of the tropical and psychedelic, her subjects and their various arrangements reveal a more complex array of forms, signifiers and symbolism. Hanging plants are a key constant here, appearing in various forms and iterations. The works that reference the still-life tradition are the strongest. The totemic *Tower of Babel* and wonderfully complex *Hang-Ups 2* - its tangle of hanging plants jostling for space around the parting limbs of a tree - are loaded with evocative formal elements, objects and detail. To learn that, for Marchesi, *Hang-Ups* represents a kind of laden portrait of her family history is telling. The impact of these paintings belies mere leaf and stem to burrow into the root system. **Thurs-Sat, noon-6pm, until November 9, Beam Contemporary, level 1, 30 Guildford Lane, city, 9670 4443, beamcontemporary.com.au**

EVERYDAY

Swiss duo Bastien Aubry and Dimitri Broquard's wonderfully wonky, melted, mutated porcelain jugs (below) perch, hunch and splay atop nondescript IKEA-style bookshelves, while a pair of their equally globular ceramic hands, chained together by seemingly rusted cuffs (also ceramic), create an absurdist incense holder and ashtray in the lobby. Elsewhere, Ricky Swallow's petite bronze casts of cardboard vessels broach a distinctly modernist language, while Sydney-born, London-based designer Marc Newson's *Extruded Table 1* stands like a silent monolith (the work was extruded from one vast block of white Carrara marble). Sally Ross' stunning big-cat painting might read as a playful reference to the domestic cat's elevated place in the home, or perhaps to the more disturbing opulence of a big-cat hide as decoration. Whatever the case, there's no mistake that this brilliantly curated show at Murray White Room takes

day-to-day need not be so dull, if only we had the dollars. **Tues-Fri, 11am-6pm, Sat, 1pm-5pm, until November 16, Murray White Room, Sargood Lane, city, 9663 3204, murraywhiteroom.com**

WELCOME! WELCOME!

It's fair to say that the title of this compact group show at new space Strange Neighbour is ironic in tenor. Featuring the work of photographers Louis Porter and Glenn Sloggett, and artists David Wadeldon, Paul White and Llawella Lewis, *Welcome! Welcome!* probes suburban nostalgia and malaise with equal weight. While Wadeldon's meticulous, high-keyed paintings of idealised real estate agent photographs, Lewis' topographical paper sculpture and White's cross-sectional studies of decaying Holden Commodores offer a psycho-architectural overview of suburban icons, Porter and Sloggett bring things down to grimmer wet surfaces, muddy grass and scrunched paper - you can almost smell the dank of Sloggett's glistening high-flash photographs of decrepit suburban front yards. **Wed-Sat, 11am-6pm, until October 26, Strange Neighbour, 395 Gore Street, Fitzroy, 9041 8727, strangeneighbour.com**

ANDRZEJ NOWICKI: COLOUR WON'T MASK YOUR DARK BLACK HEART

Polish-born South African artist Andrzej Nowicki has made a name in his home country for his historically loaded, graphically inclined watercolour, gouache and collaged paintings. Taking various cues from art history, family photographs and other personal and found iconography, his works are at once playful, astute and a little silly. As its title suggests, things take a slightly dingier turn with *Colour Won't Mask Your Dark Black Heart*. But that's not to suggest they lack fervour or complexity. The strongest paintings see Nowicki wrangle some sinister imagery and symbolism, be it the confluence of brutalist architecture, smoke stacks and abstracted figures, or the wraith-like vis-

COMING UP

**NIGHT MARKET**

Warmer nights herald the return of the South Melbourne Night Market (above), beginning in late October and running until mid-December. Held every Thursday, the market welcomes a selection of stallholders selling locally designed or locally made items, including clothing, accessories, jewellery and more. Artists, performers and musicians gather to entertain the crowds.

October 31-December 19, South Melbourne Market, Cecil Street, South Melbourne, southmelbournemarket.com.au

THEATRE

Alkinos Tsilimidos, director of Melbourne Theatre Company's acclaimed 2012 production of *Red*, returns with *The Mountaintop*, Katori Hall's innovative play about Dr Martin Luther King junior's last night in the Lorraine Motel, Memphis. It stars Bert LaBonte and Zahra Newman.

November 1-December 14, Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre Melbourne, 100 St Kilda Road, city, \$33-\$99, 1300 182 183, artscentremelbourne.com.au

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When life gets too hard, it's time to create a new superhero. *Super Discount* is the story of a champion cunningly disguised as a young man, humorously defying a dangerous undercurrent as he journeys through the everyday. *Super Discount* is a



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Selected by Jake Wilson

Milburn's inventively styled documentary is a remarkable full-length portrait - funny, sad, inspiring and occasionally profound. (See review page 19.) **Cinema Nova.**

7 FANTASTIC MR FOX

(88 minutes) PG
For a miniaturist such as Wes Anderson, nothing could be more natural than experimenting with stop-motion animation. This droll 2009 adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's book reimagines the hero as a "wild animal" so civilized he could only be

projected. **Palace Balwyn and Palace Dendy Brighton, today and tomorrow, 1.30pm.**

9 STRANGER BY THE LAKE

(97 minutes) R
At a secluded lake in rural France, men gather to swim, chat, show off their bodies and have sex with each other - but somewhere in this sunny carnal utopia, a killer is on the loose. Relying on a handful of actors and a single location, Alain Guiraudie's elegant, provocative mystery

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day-to-day need not be so dull, if only we had the dollars. **Tues-Fri, 11am-6pm, Sat, 1pm-5pm, until November 16, Murray White Room, Sargood Lane, city, 9663 3204, murraywhiteroom.com**

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DAN RULE

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November 13-December 1, Coopers Malthouse, 113 Sturt Street, Southbank, \$30-\$59, 9685 5111, malthousetheatre.com.au

WORLD

Musical maverick Mohsen Namjoo is coming to Melbourne. The Iranian artist, songwriter, singer, music scholar and sitar player has been hailed as the Bob Dylan of his home country. Namjoo seamlessly blends the classical with the modern. His unique musical style resembles a patchwork of Persian classical poetry with Western rock, blues and jazz.

November 22, Forum II, 154 Flinders Street, city, \$68.95-\$78.95, 9299 9860, forummelbourne.com.au

