

The art world heats up this month

Andrew Frost finds seven captivating installations to treat the eyes and mind.

1 Avataric Evolutionism by Shalini Jardin
This is the debut solo show for a prodigiously talented painter concerned with the state of the world. Shalini Jardin's fantastical paintings imagine hybrids of nature and its inhabitants – human, animal and everything in between. **Until August 27**, Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm, **Flinders Street Gallery**, 61 Flinders Street, Surry Hills, 9380 5663.

2 Surveying the Tanami by Simon Taylor
Simon Taylor's elegant abstract paintings combine nature, science and subtle fluid forms reflecting the artist's residence at a remote indigenous community near Alice Springs.

Wednesday to September 11, Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm, **Martin Browne Contemporary**, 15-21 Hampden Street, Paddington, 9331 7997.

Where Are They Now?
each year, gallery owner Keldoulis gives select

University of NSW College of Fine Arts students encouragement awards. Asking "where are they now?", GBK exhibits work by 13 former recipients now into their early professional careers, including pieces by Tara Cook, Hugh Marchant, Dara Gill and Marilyn Schneider. Students from 2008-2010 – 13 artists in show, **until September 3**, Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm, **Gallery Barry Keldoulis**, 285 Young Street, Waterloo, 8399 1240.

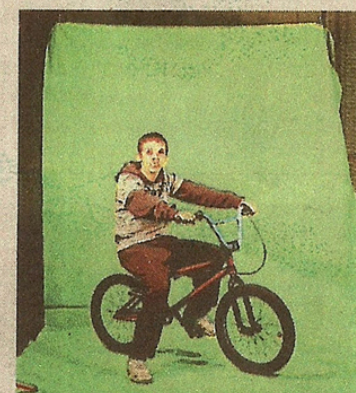
4 Precarious by Marilyn Fairskye
With an unfortunate renewed relevance, Marilyn Fairskye's stunning video work, *Precarious*, takes viewers on a journey across the frozen surface of the Black Sea to the heart of Chernobyl's reactor No. 4, finding that nature and humans somehow survive in the irradiated landscape. **Until September 3**, Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm, **Stills Gallery**, 36 Gosbell Street, Paddington.



5 Elegant Surrender by Silke Raetze
Silke Raetze works across several different media, from painting and fabric works to sculpture and drawing. Artworks such as *Free To Choose* – a checklist of most-desirable female attributes rendered in needlepoint – is an excellent example of her often sly, surreal humour that playfully mixes up forms with viewer expectations. **Until September 2**, Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm, **Michael Reid gallery**, 44 Roslyn Gardens, Elizabeth Bay, 8353 3500.



6 The Ravensworth Series by Peter Gardiner
When Peter Gardiner returned from a Beijing residency and visited Ravensworth in the Upper Hunter, he was shocked to find a once-bucolic landscape under a blanket of diesel fuel and coal dust was more reminiscent of China than rural NSW. His paintings mix majestic vistas with sublime horror. **Until August 27**, Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm, **Damien Minton Gallery**, 61-63 Great Buckingham Street, Redfern, 9699 7551.



7 Second City #1 by Stella Rosa McDonald
Stella Rosa McDonald undertook a two-year project aiming to construct a speculative history of Sydney through portraits of its inhabitants, past, present and future. *Second City #1* is a series of video portraits of Glebe youth and youth workers, developed in participation with the Glebe Youth Service and through The Firstdraft Emerging Artist Studio Program. **Until August 28**, Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 6pm, **Firstdraft**, 116-118 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills, 9698 3665.

The must-sees ... (from left) artworks from Simon Taylor, Peter Gardiner and Stella Rosa McDonald.