

ARTS

Edited by Stephen Bevis



Exhibition sparks first at gallery

Turner Galleries' first artist-in-residence for the year is Melbourne-based Valerie Sparks. Her first solo exhibition in Perth opens on Friday and runs until March 1.

Sparks' digitally manipulated photographic prints are inspired by the French scenic wallpapers manufactured by Zuber in the 1800s.

In a 6m-long work called *El Dorado Springs*, Sparks plays with perspective and reality, combining some of Melbourne's landmark multicultural buildings (St

Patrick's Cathedral, a Buddhist centre in Springvale, St Kilda's Alliance Francaise) to create a beautiful and surreal environment. Also on display is *The Event*, a 7m-long depiction of a mountainous landscape at night.

Working with very large digital images, Sparks creates landscapes that resonate with the familiar and yet also have a surreal

"otherness" to it. She points out that the "cinematic aesthetic is a nod to the gloss that often is put on a situation which, at times, is fraught and unavoidably influenced by experience from the past".

Turner Galleries is at 470 William Street, Northbridge. For more information, go to www.turnergalleries.com.au.



In print: Details from Valerie Sparks' *The Event*.