

turnergalleries

ANDREW NICHOLLS
GO TO HELL

SUSAN FLAVELL
sabine

5 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH 2010
opening 6 - 8pm Friday 5 February

Please join us for the opening of two impressive exhibitions by two of Perth's most exciting mid career artists, incorporating sculpture, drawings and video.

Andrew Nicholls seems to be everywhere at the moment, exhibiting in group shows, solo shows in the eastern states, book launches, writing essays, and now his first major solo exhibition with Turner Galleries. In recent years he has been obsessed with drawing demons, and this exhibition features the best of them, along with new drawings and an exciting new video work.

His work is always provocative, with exhibitions titled *The Devil at the Church*, *Love Sick*, or his book that was published last year: *Love Andrew Nicholls*. This exhibition is no exception: *Go to Hell*. The gallery walls will be adorned with drawings of demons, some literally drawn directly onto the walls, others on paper and available for sale unframed. Stylistically Andrew's work could be compared to Victorian sentimental drawings, but it is this sweetness of line that belies the often grotesque themes and gives the works such impact. He flaunts appropriation, saying "practically everything that I draw is stolen from other sources... blue and white china design, Victorian illustration, historical artworks, pop song lyrics, etc." Entwined with demonic energy, desire and monstrosities, Andrew's remarkable drawings instil a sense of the inevitable damnation of man.

He explained, "The *Go To Hell* works are influenced by the way evil has been depicted by artists, historically. The works make explicit reference to paintings by Bosch, Bouts, Bruegel, Delacroix, Michaelangelo, Vasari and Zuccari as well as Lewis' gothic novel *The Monk* (1794), Christensen's film *Haxan* (1922) and Lynch's *Twin Peaks* (1990-1992). They are religious artworks."

Susan Flavell's new work is situated in the entry room of the gallery, and it is the most impressive piece of art we have ever shown in this space – visitors are in for a shock and a real treat. *Sabine* is the name of Susan's newest creation, a massive werewolf. Created from cardboard, she leers menacingly at passers by, daring them to enter the gallery. Susan loves working with cardboard, stating, it "is my favourite material; it is possible to make almost anything out of it. Like drawings, the cardboard works are sketched, drawn and redrawn, showing layers of structure, lines, marks, texture, glue, and mistakes. Through the manipulation of the cardboard I am interested in creating a sense of life in the work, and the experience of modeling cardboard on such a large scale becomes a struggle between the artist and the apparent 'agency' of the work."

Susan has paintings and sculptures in collections such as Art Gallery of WA, Murdoch University, Curtin University, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Central TAFE and the University of WA. Accompanying *Sabine* will be a series of ink drawings. Susan is also the current Mark Howlett Foundation recipient: www.mhf.asn.au

Notions of shapeshifting and transformation inform the work of both artists, creating an important connection between the two exhibitions.

Please do not hesitate to contact staff on 08 9227 1077 or email info@turnergalleries.com.au should you require more information or images from these exhibitions. Exhibition works will be available to view on line: www.turnergalleries.com.au and both artists are available for interviews.