

# Havin' a Helluva time



ARTS  
DAVID BELL

**B**IZARRE, disturbing, horrific, and a little bit funny.

Andrew Nicholls' latest exhibition *Go To Hell* invites punters to delve into the underworld in a gallery turned diabolical.

Sketchings of 111 demons adorn the walls of the Turner Galleries, from hideous mutated humanoids to horrific animal hybrids, many with their anatomy out and proud and in your face.

There's the wolf-headed hunk tugging on his jocks, the disturbing cat-with-people-hands, and probably the most repellant: A screeching koala with his very human arse pointed skywards spraying noxious fumes.

The highlight of the show is the 3m tall *Satan*, an alluring image of a muscle-bound Beelzebub with horns sprouting from his head and the devil's lunchbox on display.

"I was raised Catholic but because I'm gay and because of the way I live my life, according to Catholic doctrine I'm going to hell," Nicholls says.

"So it's this tongue-in-cheek idea that if this is the case I should make the most of it now."

Nicholls says his work is a tribute to religious art from the past, influenced by the likes of hellish painters Heironymous Bosch, Michelangelo and Dieric Bouts.

"I thought it was funny that a lot of that work, even though it was commissioned by the Church, they always make Hell look much more exciting than Heaven."

The devils share the Turner gallery space with the lupine stylings of Susan Flavell's latest work *Sabine*: a 5m long sculpture of a quadrupedal werewolf guarding the entrance.

The strips of cardboard making up its skin are spaced to let the viewer see through to the skeleton, showing the beginning, middle and end of the work.

"I am interested in creating a sense of life in the work, and the experience of modelling cardboard on such a large scale becomes a struggle between the artist and the apparent 'agency' of the work," she says.

The exhibitions are open now and run till March 6 at the Turner Galleries at 470 William Street, Northbridge.



• Hellish artist Andrew Nicholls with his latest demonic work at the Turner Galleries in Northbridge. (Ed. Yes, we know it's a penis but this is an arts page and last time we heard, the Inquisition was over).  
Photo by Jeremy Dixon.