

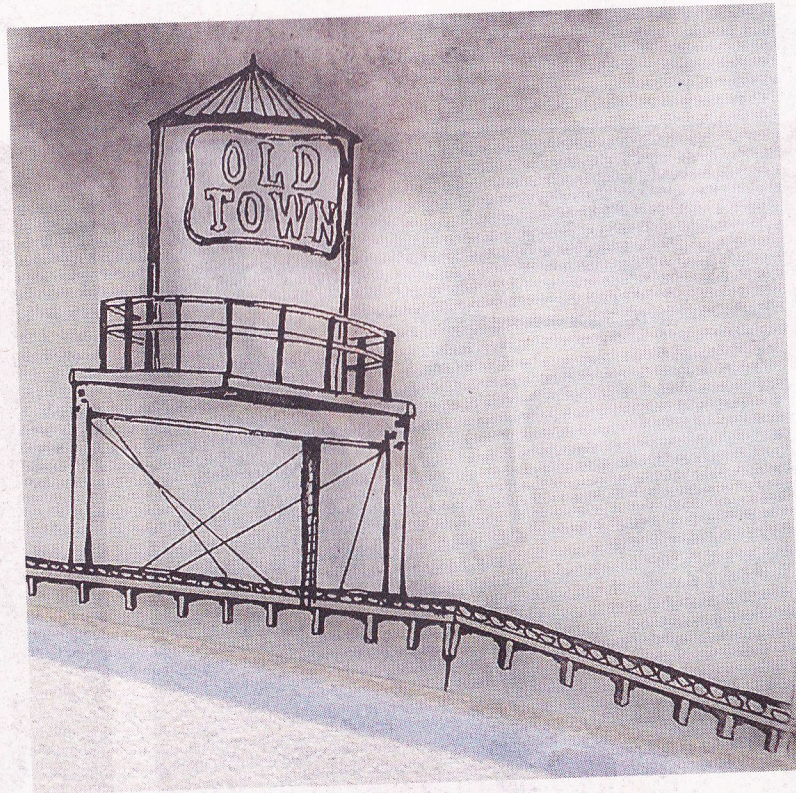
Fine transitions in life journeys



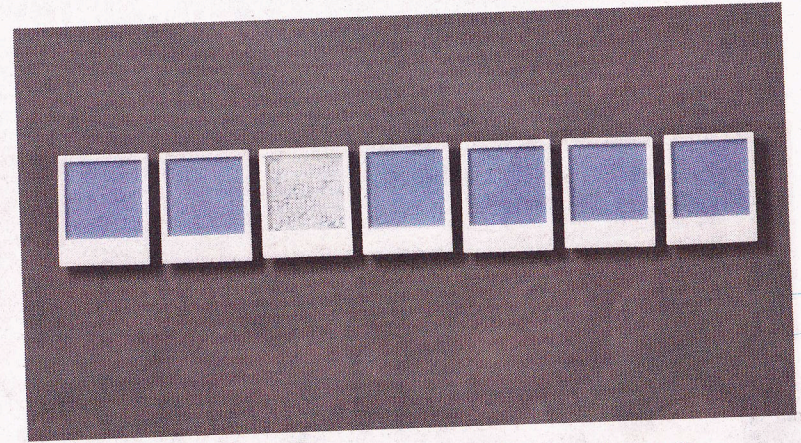
KERRY-ANNE COUSINS

Imprint, an exhibition by Mel George, and Drawn Across, an exhibition by Jeremy Lepisto.

Canberra Glassworks, 11 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston. Wednesday-Sunday 10am-4pm. Until November 20.



One of Jeremy Lepisto's works on show at Canberra Glassworks.



Mel George's *Rolling By* achieves a specific luminosity and intensity.

Mel George and Jeremy Lepisto are two young artists who have recently returned from Portland, Oregon, in the United States to work in Canberra. George, originally from Canberra, is a graduate of the Canberra School of Art Glass Workshop. Lepisto is an American artist with an impressive background of experience in both working and teaching in glass in the US.

This is a period of transition and change in both their creative and personal lives so it is not surprising to see this is reflected in the exhibition.

Lepisto uses the descriptive line in an economical and skilful way to record his experiences. These drawings are made on small kiln-formed glass sheets that resemble the pages of a spiral notebook. They can be displayed on a wall using cleverly devised screw holes or, as in this exhibition, scattered like torn-out pages of a sketchbook on a table. It amuses the artist that

the public are, contrary to gallery practice, continually touching these pages and rearranging them in a more ordered manner.

The monochromatic sketches capture small vignettes of a life in transition from the industrial buildings of Portland, to an interior angle inside a plane, to the new landscape of Canberra,

including, of course, the district birdlife. These little sketches demonstrate an eye for detail and an ability to capture a telling little slice of life that is flagging a larger life experience.

These experiences are brought together in a larger work by Lepisto called *Drawn Across*. This is a lighthearted look at what can

only be a deep emotional experience. The artist draws himself on a glass "indicator" that slides along a background drawing of the Portland landscape, the Pacific Ocean in between and the Canberra landscape. The artist can therefore be "drawn" across from the US to Canberra.

In the parallel exhibition, George has taken the format of a Polaroid photograph with its centred image enclosed within a white border and used it for a series of small works. The photographic format is referential to George's own experiences of memories captured in time. The small scale also means that the works arranged in groups of up to seven can be read together as one image which allows design and colours to be subtly varied. While most images are geometric in design, in two series - *Landmark*

and *Cherry Trees* - colours are applied to the glass in a painterly manner. *Cherry Trees* is a beautiful work capturing a springtime mood of time and place in defiance of its small scale. In other works, such as *Rolling By*, the central images are simply blue. This beautiful saturated blue is an example of George's care in grinding her own colours to achieve a specific luminosity and intensity that is almost mesmerising.

This exhibition is a good beginning for George and Lepisto. Their work demonstrates a technical facility and experience with glass that will benefit the Canberra Glassworks where George is now working. This experience used in connection with the ability to draw on their new experiences will only benefit their future arts practice.