



LEFT: 1/ Sohan Ariel Hayes & Laetitia Wilson, *Datadrum v.2.04* (detail), 2009, digital installation. *Imagining the Sixth Dimensional City* showing at Fremantle Arts Centre (until 24 January) is an interactive video installation, the result of Hayes & Wilson's collaborative residency at Objectifis – Centre for Filmmaking and Photography in Singapore.

2/ Helen Smith & Jeremy Kirwan-Ward, *White orchid – railroad* (detail), 2009, wallpaper, acrylic. *Wall works* will be on display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia until 31 January 2010. [www.artgallery.wa.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au)

3/ Cecile Williams, *Invasion*, found plastics from Christmas Island, 2009. Photograph by Nic Duncan. *Contained* is part of the Perth International Arts Festival, showing at Gallery Central, Central Institute of Technology, Perth, from 6 February to 6 March 2010. [www.gallerycentral.com.au](http://www.gallerycentral.com.au)

4/ Andrew Nicholls, *Swarm*, 2009, pen on paper. *Go to Hell* is showing at Turner Gallery, Perth, from 6 February to 7 March 2010. [www.turnergalleries.com.au](http://www.turnergalleries.com.au)



## Atomic mandala

Also part of PIAF, Victoria Vesna and James Gimzewski are projecting a video onto a sand form reminiscent of a mandala. The work is inspired by 'parallels of devotion': the Buddhist monk tradition of building complex images in sand, grain by grain, and by the patience required by nanoscientists in arranging atoms for analysis. Including a meditative soundscape by Anne Niemetz, *Nanomandala* is part of the inaugural International Festival of Art & Science (IFAS) produced in association with Curtin University's Resource and Chemistry Precinct, the Nanotechnology Research Institute, and the Centre for Research into Art, Science, and Humanity. At John Curtin Gallery, 5 Feb. to 30 April.

## Character building?

How does one create a work in response to the fleeting idea of character? Tony Nathan's videos prompt us to reflect on why we run and for whom? Or, what might compel us to run away from something or towards something? Louise Morrison & Matt Dickmann's modified mid-century swivel civil-servant-style office chair with wings is poised against the sky, resigned to fall or to fly from the dizzying heights of a sheer-walled, up-ended map cabinet. The classic facilitator, character prop and ego booster, a tray of alcoholic shooters, might lead to other fluid antics. And then there is the gaze: the good, the bad, and the ugly ... not real flash from any angle – narcissistic tendencies of surveying the self by Tom Freeman. *Show Character* is curated by Jonah Dames and also includes artists: Anonymous, Berri Flecke, and Lee Longley. Until 20 Dec, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.

Also at PICA is *Stonewall*, a recent video installation by Dominic Redfern. Configured for 2 different venues: Art Centre d'Marnay in France and, in an expanded form and accompanied by a second work, *Mythos*, for PICA, the soaring architecture of PICA's central gallery is an ideal venue to show this work. Occupying the spaces between self-portraiture, fiction, and documentary, Redfern explores the interstices of site, screen, and identity through the dynamics of monologue and environmental performance. The large projection shows Dominic climbing through a harsh and barren terrain while recounting a winding narrative that cycles seamlessly back on itself. Opposite this screen is a second one in which Redfern sporadically plummets through a double-screen *troupe l'oeil*. Until 20 Dec. [www.pica.org.au](http://www.pica.org.au).



## Western Australia

NIEN SCHWARZ

[j.schwarz@ecu.edu.au](mailto:j.schwarz@ecu.edu.au)

### Perth City and PIAF

The Perth International Arts Festival is hosting several inner city artworks. The practice of Fremantle-based Philip Gamblen stretches across art, science, and technology. In this mesmerising work of vibrant colours and flowing forms for the Perth International Arts Festival, Gamblen alludes to various physical phenomena and forces of nature. His work will illuminate and transform Perth City's Carillon building, from 5 Feb. to 1 March, nightly from 7:30. Rose Nolan, widely known for her very bold text works, is designing and installing banners in her signature red-and-white along a 1km strip of St Georges Terrace (between Milligan and Barrack Streets). 1 Feb. to 1 March.

## McCubbin's 11

Featuring works from all major galleries in Australia and many private collections, the NGA touring show *McCubbin: Last Impressions 1907 – 1917* focuses on the last 11 years of Heidelberg painter Frederick McCubbin's life, which is when he produced his most vibrant works and expressed his sense of place in the Australian landscape. [www.artgallery.wa.gov.au](http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au) 11 Dec. to 28 March.

## Wish you were ...

While walking on Greta Beach on Christmas Island, Cecile Williams found a transparent plastic tube containing a message in Arabic wishing an Indonesian fisherman safe passage on the seas. This find inspired numerous beach walks along the Indian Ocean for the purpose of collecting flotsam and jetsam. For many years Cecile has been travelling to the island and also working with the local Malay and Chinese population on various arts projects. Learning about their rich culture and range of belief systems also helped to inspire several of Williams's works for *Contained*. 6 Feb. to 6 March, Central TAFE Gallery.

## Still roadkill

In the company of Tim Burns and Nikolaus Lang, Brisbane-based photographer Marian Drew is inspired to create with Australian wildlife roadkill. Beautiful and simultaneously disconcerting, her photographs are inspired by 18<sup>th</sup> century still life painting conventions of theatrically? Illuminated tableaux featuring hunted animals and dramatic drapery. Drawing on direct evidence of the ways in which human expansion impacts wild animal populations, this exhibition of works from 2003 to 2009 juxtaposes roadkill with printed textiles and embroideries of idealised countryside motifs and transplanted European values: a timely reminder of where we are, what we have lost, and the fragility of all life. Marian Drew until 16 Dec. [www.turnergalleries.com.au](http://www.turnergalleries.com.au)

## Chaotic tidings

Apocalypse. It continues to inspire artists. In *Revelations: contemporary visions of apocalypse*, artists Tori Benz, Pia Bennett and Joshua Fitzpatrick, Travis Kelleher and Andrew Nicholls, and Ryan Nazzari create ambitiously scaled, multi-component works to investigate collision, disruption, and dislocation associated with the chaos of worldwide collapse. Curated by Thea Costantino at Fremantle Arts Centre, from 30 Jan. to 14 March. Also at Fremantle Arts Centre: Justin Spiers's *The Detour*; *Datadrum v.2.04 Imagining the Sixth Dimensional City*, an interactive video installation by Sohan Ariel Hayes and Laetitia Wilson, and *A Miraculous Memory*, an installation by Clare Davies. All exhibitions 30 Jan. to 14 March. [www.fac.org.au](http://www.fac.org.au).

## South/Northerly

Fremantle-based porcelain virtuoso Sandra Black and visiting Canadian artists Grace Nickel, Trudy Ellen Golley, and Paul Leathers are inspired by natural organic forms, plants, and associated references to ecological fragility. Including solo and collaborative ceramic and metal works *Northern Lights – Southern Exposure ... Lightworks* simultaneously explores aspects of illumination, reflection, and translucency. Until 12 Dec. [www.perthgalleries.com.au](http://www.perthgalleries.com.au).