

Words/Penny Webb

THE BEST OF ART

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Michael Muir

Muir pictures the world in coloured shapes that about without benefit of outline and which are stacked to pattern scenes remembered, perhaps, or explored in a storybook. It's a balancing act of twee and traumatised. Above is *The Valley*, 2012.

Sophie Gannon Gallery, Richmond ☎ 9421 0857

October 23 - November 17

Maritime Art Prize

The theme of this 10th annual Maritime Art Prize run by the Mission to Seafarers is humanity's relationship with the sea. Paint is the favoured medium (no digital images permitted). Expect blustery watercolours among long, hard looks at sea craft. Admiral James Goldrick is one of the judges.

717 Flinders Street, Docklands ☎ 9629 7083

October 5 - 31



SANJA PAHOKI

Since completing an MFA in 2006, Sanja Pahoki has taught part-time at the VCA and worked in Scandinavia. She's an accomplished photographer who takes her technical skill for granted (*Lava Land II*, 2011, pictured). An urgent need to communicate is expressed with an edgy simplicity - in neon texts, for example. It's satisfyingly provocative work.

Sarah Scout Presents, level 1, 1a Crossley Street, city ☎ 9654 4429

October 11 - November 10



Goodman, Dumbrell

Jennifer Goodman's playful painted shapes act like coloured gels overlapping to produce intermediate colours (*Meander*, 2012, pictured left). For more than 40 years, optical abstraction has served Lesley Dumbrell's response to the emotional effects of light in nature. The vibrancy of her work is the result of subtle shifts in patterning and colour relationships worked out on the canvas (as in *Cigar*, 2011).

John Buckley Gallery, Richmond ☎ 9428 8554

October 24 to November 17



Jenny Loft

Jenny Loft, who studied sculpture and printmaking at RMIT in the 1970s, introduced glass into her sculptural work in the '90s. Lead crystal, cast from wax models, produces the play of light and colour that she desires. Loft is an environmentalist, as *At the Crossroads*, 2011 (pictured below) suggests.

Stephen McLaughlan Gallery, level 8, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston Street ☎ 0407 317 323

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Barbara Bolt

Thinned oil paint pools, seeps and dribbles on Bolt's linen surfaces, dissolving boundaries between figure and ground as a winter of rain will undermine personal certainties (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, pictured).

Catherine Asquith Gallery, Collingwood ☎ 9417 2828

October 16 - November 3



Jo Davenport

Nature, including the passage of time, is invested with temperament in gestural marks, finicky and febrile, in these landscapes.

Flinders Lane Gallery,

