

arts & entertainment

Artists' different strokes

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Such associations between these oscillating discs are reinforced by the way they drift in and out of focus — particularly in the series titled *Merge 2003* in blues, purples, greens and ochres.

Cummings is a senior Sydney painter, the dean of what is known locally as the Wedderburn School, which takes its name from the region south of Sydney near Royal National Park.

Essentially, she takes her inspiration from landscape and interiors.

When last seen she was working her way, gloriously, through the Currumbin Valley in the Gold Coast hinterland.

These large, more recent works at SPAN will transport you to the Pilbara, Western Australia, with their iron-ore reds and beehive-shaped Bungle Bungles.

In paintings such as *Sappy Gum in the Pilbara*, voluptuous land forms form a bumpy horizon and tumble down the picture-plane into a tangle of nameless shapes in the foreground.



Poetic world: Elisabeth Cummings at work in her studio.

Her surfaces appear to follow the cyclic seasonal processes of nature itself. Lines move in and out of focus. Slabs of heavy impasto are applied with a palette knife, cut back, then re-applied.

Hence the edges of many final strokes can be read almost as a documentation of the process of growth, in much the same way as growth cycles can be read in a pristine landscape. Where they

succeed is the way they play with meaning and non-meaning.

Familiar forms such as chairs and kitchen utensils in Cummings' interiors invite you into the picture.

When there, unfamiliar shapes, lines, colours and marks make for their own (as opposed to representational) value takeover.

And, suddenly, you are transported into the poet's world of imagination and speculation.

Critic's
CHOICE

JEFF MAKIN

Jane Burton — Available Light

Where: Dickerson Gallery, 2a Waltham St, Richmond

Until: October 26

THERE is a deliciously haunting feel to Jane Burton's ethereal female nudes as they materialise from behind diaphanous lace curtains, nipples frozen in time on large photographic prints.

Unashamedly sexy, these are not your normal photos. Hence the fine tonal transitions into mysterious shadow, at times reminiscent of the film style of Alfred Hitchcock.

Jo Daniell — Regeneration

Where: Gallery 101, ground level, 101 Collins St, city

Until: Saturday

A LOVE of the natural world underpins Jo Daniell's latest exhibition of photography.

There are 40 images and you may recognise Mt Beauty and Falls Creek.

The cyclic process of nature and its ability to regenerate after bushfires are recurring motifs.

More could be done with light and only occasionally does this exhibition rise above reportage.

David Laity — Underneath

Where: Metro 5 Gallery, 1214 High St, Armadale

Until: October 26

DAVID Laity is a mechanic turned self-taught artist who may have left his spanners in the garage but has kept his love of centrefold pin-ups.

Promoted as luscious, curvaceous, provocative and part of the new porn movement, Laity's nudes are about as sexy as a pork chop.

One can't help feeling these images need more research into the magnificent achievements in this genre by Modigliani, Wesselman and Klimt.