

s not that serious. Just because
re different races, we're all blood.
way I see it, you can be Chinese,
ey. If you're hot, you're hot,"
says with a salacious giggle.
aving followed her mother from
cafes to photo shoots, Cantrell,
all wannabe singers since the

stand-up comedy (she writes skits),
a possible collaboration with
another grande dame, Elton John
(there's a mutual fan club afoot) and
hopefully more hype and hullabaloo.

The Observer

Bittersweet is out now.

WENDY SHARPE



The nights at the round table: Fred Cress's *Inner Circle*.

family members from across three generations are a red-and-blue concertinaed portrait gallery on stark white shelves. Lee's trademark multiple photocopying of each face creates subtly different features, while splashes of black paint resembling thick sprays of bitumen narrowly miss her subjects. On two other walls photographer, social essayist and third-generation Chinese Australian William Yang presents two arms of his family. One, *About My Mother*, is a tenderly revealing homage to a complex yet loving relationship.

181-187 Hay Street, city,
9212 0380. Tuesday to Saturday
11am-6pm, until October 18.

PORTIA GEACH MEMORIAL AWARD

S.H. Ervin Gallery

The Portia Geach, the annual award for portraiture by contemporary Australian women artists, is now nearly 40 years old. This year veteran

painter Wendy Sharpe won the \$18,000 prize for *Self-Portrait with Teacup and Burning Paintings*, a chunky brew of form, fervour and self-scrutiny. And, among the 60 paintings selected for exhibition, it's a similar story. Margarita Georgiadis's intention to reveal "a creative and psychological breakthrough" has resulted in a self-portrait of surging motion and fleeting disclosure. Georgiadis's head is tilted back, her lips are slashes of red, while her steady gaze is both guarded and vulnerable. Melissa Beowulf's nervy self-portrait, which was highly commended by the judges, features the artist eyeing the viewer as a half-finished canvas. With paintbrush poised and slashes of white light coating her ruddy skin and red hair, Beowulf seems possessed.

National Trust Centre, Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks, 9258 0123. Tuesday to Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-5pm, until November 2.