

Rebecca Hastings
Offering
 The Hotel Metropolitan
 Sunday, July 29 to Saturday, September 8
rebeccahastings.com.au

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REBECCA HASTINGS

It's been a successful 2012 for Adelaide Hills-based painter Rebecca Hastings. The 2011 Adelaide Central School of Art Honours graduate won Helpmann Academy's SALA Festival Award, the Pleyzier Perkins Acquisitive Art Prize and her exhibition at Flinders Lane Gallery in Melbourne sold out.

Hastings will show the second part of her *Offering* series, (the first series sold out in Melbourne, which featured the *Rabbit Boy* painting on the cover of this issue of *The Adelaide Review*) as part of SALA at the Hotel Metropolitan. Her SALA exhibition will continue the theme of maternal ambivalence (she has a boy aged six and a girl, three), which was showcased with the *Boy* paintings featuring her son in various animal costumes. Hastings says this theme was something she wrestled with and resisted during art school.

"I worried about making sentimental pictures of my kids and found myself overcompensating, making works that were quite harsh, focusing on all the negative things about motherhood but not the positives," Hastings explains. "Fortunately I did manage to get those works out of my system and I found myself dipping into the complex and

often contradictory experiences and emotions that come with having kids. Anger, frustration, tenderness, humour and fear; all of these things feed into the work somehow, and I enjoy the multiple layers that are possible in taking this approach. Maternal ambivalence is a weighty topic and I think it's best handled gently or subtly otherwise it can become didactic."

While *Rabbit Boy* won't show at the Hotel Metropolitan, her new work will be based on the relationship Hastings has with her three-year-old daughter.

"There are some new ideas in these works because the relationship I have with her is different to my relationship with my son. In this exhibition there are paintings of her empty clothing. These are baby's clothes that she has grown out of but which are presented as still life objects. But whilst the clothes are empty, they still speak of the presence of her body. For me, these are memento mori, reminders of her as a baby, but a baby that no longer exists. They are about this odd sense of grief or loss that I feel each time the kids grow into their next phase of development.

"In all of the *Offering* works there is an element

of the child at play; dressing up, hiding, pretending to be something else. These are all strong narrative elements. Even though these are highly realised works, as paintings they hover between reality and imagination, what we see and what we don't see – it's that little space between that I'm trying to access. The lighting and colour palette are common across all the works. Intense lighting is used to create drama and bring out meticulous detail, whilst dark shadows suggest the unknown. The works conceal and reveal at the same time."

Hastings is represented by Flinders Lane Gallery and will return to the Melbourne gallery for a solo exhibition next year and will exhibit locally at Hill Smith Gallery at the end of 2013.

"I'm about to start some new stockroom works which Flinders Lane Gallery will use to market my work leading up to the show next year. That show is an opportunity for me to develop a larger body of work in which individual paintings feed upon each other to create that overall feeling of unease that seems to come from maternal ambivalence. This show will feature both my son and daughter, drawing out some of the ideas that have come to the surface in the recent *Offering* series."



Rebecca Hastings
Offering # 2 (detail)

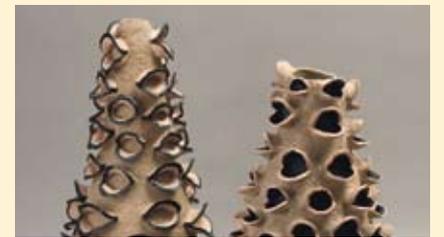
PAUL HOBAN
 TRANSFORMAL (image)

MARK KIMBER
 THE PALE MIRROR

25 July - 31 August

GREENAWAY ART GALLERY
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National Aboriginal Cultural Institute Tandanya presents



Banksia Vessels 2010 Christina Gollan

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Natural Fibre Woven Basket 2012 Janelle Evans

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Tandanya - National Aboriginal Cultural Institute
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www.tandanya.com.au



Mawson Walk, Watercolour by Mike McEneaney

ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARTS INC.

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22 July - 19 August

"*Into the Melting Pot*", 22 July - 19 August is an amazing eclectic mix of fine art and contemporary works from RSASA Members, an exhibition of paintings, photographs, textiles, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking & digital imagery.

Artist talks: Wed 1 Aug, 1-3pm - Margaret McEntee, Exploring Pastels; Sun 19 August 1-3pm, Lindy Downing talking about Digital Imagery processes.



Royal South Australian Society of Arts Inc.

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