

# Wool balls and apple cores appeal

Jacob Leary dashes between mediums to express ideas

**I** WORK with a range of different mediums and approaches. I use painting, sculpture, drawing and photography. I'm interested in them coming together as a fusion.

Finishing my masters of fine arts is probably my biggest achievement so far. It was an installation that grew exponentially and it reflected the idea that technology grows at an exponential rate. It was a dense environment of sculptures, paintings, drawings, maps and charts. The paintings were off the wall and became sculptures.

I don't have a favourite medium but I go through phases. I'm excited about starting a series of paintings at the moment. The installations were exciting for me but it's very laborious. I get bored

## MEET the ARTIST



**ABOVE:** *Cosmic Bosnia*

reasonably easily so it's good to vary what I do.

I use a variety of materials, from organic matter such as apple cores and grapes to traditional acrylic on canvas. I often use materials for my sculptures that are close at hand and aren't precious. I think it's about not caring about preciousness. There's something interesting about



**INNOVATIVE:** Hobart artist Jacob Leary, 31, is fascinated by city spaces and using everyday objects at hand in his work. Pictures: SAM ROSEWARNE

transforming the everyday, using things you're accustomed to seeing in a certain light.

I started art school in Launceston and studied architecture there for two years. It generated my huge interest in the built form and city spaces. I used to

love building the models. I've always been interested in the city, and being in the city. I'm interested in how the forces are at play, how spaces are created and how people relate to them. I'm fascinated by connections and mapping.

I grew up in Ulverstone and



**ABOVE:** A mixed media sculpture with yarn and needles.

moved to Hobart in 2004. My dad is a leadlight artist and I think there is an indirect connection with creating things out of pieces. His side of the family has artistic heritage.

ELIZABETH LORD

Hobart artist Jacob Leary's first solo exhibition *B+B+C* is on at Despard Gallery, 15 Castray Esplanade until July 24. He is one of 14 artists selected for the finalists' exhibition for the John Fries Memorial Art Prize in Sydney in August.