



# The stamp of approval

**B+B+C**  
Despard Gallery, Castray Esplanade  
Until July 24  
Price range: \$500-\$15,000



## GALLERY WATCH Clyde Selby

**S**TAMP collectors, according to popular stereotype, are men of advanced middle age who wear cardigans and ties (doubtless soup-stained) and have a need for fussy control.

Jacob Leary, with his fervid imagination is the antithesis of this description.

Nevertheless he puts an algebraic sense of order and geometrical patterning into his art forms albeit with a sense of

disruption. It must have been four years ago when I first saw an example of his creativity.

For the RACT youth portraiture prize he exhibited a mosaic of himself that had been contrived from meticulously placed paint shop colour swatches.

For this diverse exhibition, *Borders, Boundaries and Codes*, his spherical statement exemplifies seeing the unique amidst the ordinary.

Images of apples make occasional appearances in his work but quite typically he has seen their recycled value as an art form.

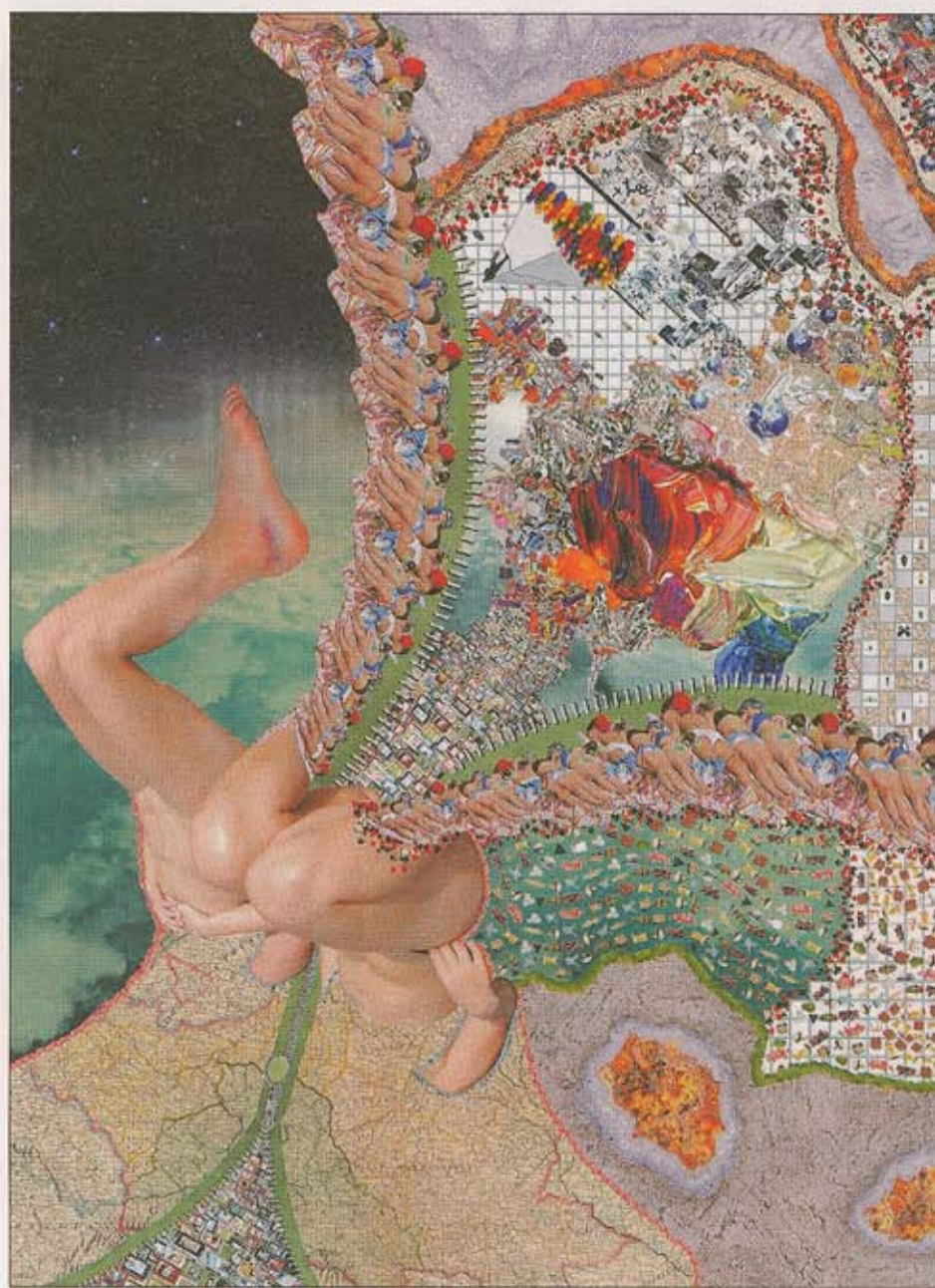
In comparison to his dried apple core spherical sculpture he presents a range of others that are more typical of his technological inclinations.

An inkjet collage called *Handsome Thing* in an edition of five has repetitive patterns of everyday objects and old European maps.

Serried ranks of sun baking young women are presented against the starry magnitude of other heavenly bodies in outer space.

As a jarring discord to the regularity, a zip tears open the mathematical conformity to reveal something akin to catastrophe.

In another giclee print there is a



**SURREAL:** Jacob Leary's artwork includes, above, a print of inanimate objects making up the geography of a surreal land as seen from the air and, left, a dried apple core spherical sculpture.

multiplicity of inanimate objects that make up the geography of a surreal land as seen from the air.

Having a parallel existence to the billowing clouds is a juxtaposition of unpredictable, ordered objects seemingly beset by chaos.

Is it a utopia of perfect social balance torn asunder that he is conveying or conversely an oppressive dystopia buckling under the groundswell of dissent?

At the very least it can be said that Leary's colourful works are not obvious in their meaning and they provide material for speculation and conjecture.

Largest of all works is a threesome measuring five metres in total length.

It poses something like an algorithm with geometric shapes on one side merging in between with fragmentary symbols on the other extreme.

These painted works on canvas are another of Leary's ventures into the abstracted representation of real things that are just waiting to be decoded.



**WILD IMAGINATION:** Above and top left, untitled sculptures by Jacob Leary.

