

## Sebastian Di Mauro: Archimedes' Bath

## Kate Shaw: Hell and High Water

Sullivan and Strumpf Fine Art, Sydney  
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In his new work, Sebastian Di Mauro continues his ongoing obsession with the swelling, fecund forms of mother nature's curves. Many of his previous works, including several massive public commissions in Brisbane, resemble giant seedpods, shells or the convoluted shapes of fungi. Di Mauro tends to juxtapose these organic shapes with an unexpected use of manmade materials, from astro turf to stainless steel pot scrubbers and carpet underlay. In *Archimedes' Bath*, Di Mauro uses rubbery wetsuit material to create smaller, more intimate sculptures that seem to capture the essence of underwater creatures.

As a painter, Kate Shaw is happy to admit, "I'm not interested in the human figure. I like abstract forms." However, semi-abstract might be a more accurate description for Shaw's brightly coloured, almost psychedelic paintings. In 2005, while in the USA she was seduced by the bright lights and glitzy architecture of Las Vegas. But, *Hell and High Water* sees Shaw return to her preoccupation with ambiguous landscapes. Her scenic vistas of mountains, trees and lakes can be read just as easily as simply marbled pools of spilled paint.

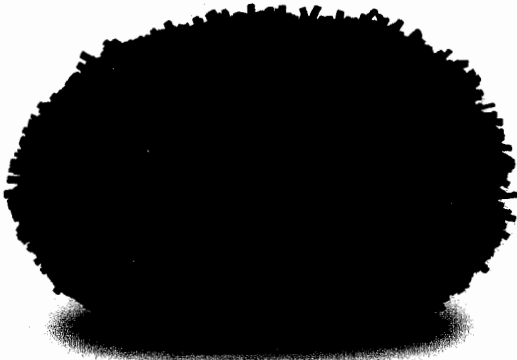
When two artists show in the same room, without collaborating, their individual solo shows begin a conversation on their behalf. At first it might seem that, aside from drawing inspiration from nature's elements: fire, water, air and earth, Sebastian Di Mauro and Kate Shaw might not have that much to talk about. He is an established sculptor from Brisbane, she one of Melbourne's rising painters. But, covered in thick shiny resin, Shaw's paintings have an enticing depth that gives them a three dimensional edge, and Di Mauro's sculptures, bristling with thousands of neoprene slivers, shimmer like a pointillist canvas.

Tracey Clement



Kate Shaw, *Flow*, 2007. Resin and acrylic on board, 30 x 40cm. COURTESY: SULLIVAN AND STRUMPF FINE ART, SYDNEY.

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Sebastian Di Mauro, *Rise*, 2006. Neoprene, fibreglass, plastic mesh, 48 x 90 x 52cm. COURTESY: SULLIVAN AND STRUMPF FINE ART, SYDNEY.