artguide
AUSTRALIA
november/december 2009
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Brisbane

Sebastian Di Mauro:
Footnotes of a Verdurous Tale.

Queensland University of Technology
Art Museum
Until 31 January

If, when you think of sculpture, marble, sandstone and concrete spring to mind, prepare to have your preconceptions shattered by the work of Brisbane-based artist Sebastian Di Mauro.

Featuring bold, often highly tactile sculptures made from unusual materials that include dirt, charcoal, ash, olive oil, pot scourers and brilliant emerald green plastic grass, *Footnotes of a Verdurous Tale* is a survey exhibition that showcases Di Mauro's distinctive works by placing single sculptural creations alongside highly imaginative installation pieces.

It's difficult to resist the temptation to reach out and touch the astro-turf forms that comprise *Lascaire* or the fuzzy forms that make up the Manifestations series, which is primarily crafted from carpet underlay.

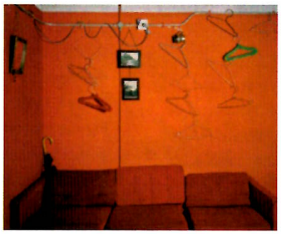
While Di Mauro's modern, naturalist works reveal strong views on our relationship with the environment and the need to treat it with great sensitivity, the works on display avoid didacticism, instead challenging and teasing the viewer with ambiguity and multiple meanings. As Ken Scarlett writes in his exhibition catalogue essay, "Di Mauro allows them to smile, to laugh at his creations, all the while quietly concealing his message for a slow revelation. - Heidi Maier

Melbourne

2.

Cubism & Australian Art
Heide Museum of Modern Art
From 24 November

Sydney



3.

Please step quietly
everyone can hear you
Trent Parke
Stills Gallery
Until 28 November

Wollongong

4.

Zhongjian: Midway
Wollongong City Gallery
Until 29 November

1. Sebastian Di Mauro, *Neap*, 2007. Neoprene, fibreglass and plastic mesh. Private Collection. Courtesy of the artist, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne and Sullivan & Strumpf Fine Art, Sydney.
2. Daniel Crooks, *Portrait #2*, (Chris) 2007. Courtesy of the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne.
3. Trent Parke, *Please step quietly everyone can hear you*. Image credit: © Trent Parke.
4. Jin Sha, *Conversation with Dürer*, 1994, ink and colour pigment on silk, 27 x 24cm.