

Two Ziggurats in Wellington

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by John Daly-Peoples

Taisha Hutchinson & Nicki Manthal
Mademoiselles
Chaffers Gallery, Herd St

Gina Jones,
Page Blackie Gallery
Until July 19th

The work by **Taisha Hutchinson** and **Nicki Manthal** on display at the new Chaffers Gallery adjacent to Waitangi Park offers contrasts.

Taisha Hutchinson is showing small works based on the ziggurat, the pyramidal shape found throughout the Middle East and the Americas. The small bleached works are like primitive sketches recovered from an ancient library.

Nicki Manthals larger works also refer to landscape as well as plant forms but are substantially larger and are all black and white

Some of Taisha Hutchinson's works are obvious views, plans and elevation of the ziggurat such as Zig V (\$3000), while others such as Zig VI (\$4500) are just a painterly gesture in which the structure is lost in a swirl of paint.

The shapes of the ziggurats hover between landscape and abstract, between light and air and can be seen as images of the disappearance of past cultures and the way in which memory becomes hazy over time.

Nicki Manthal's uses images of plants, seed pods and flowers in her Liquid Light Series many of which are painted on acetate so that there is a shimmering surface reflecting the light of the gallery and the outside.

In Bud IV (\$2200) the silhouette of flowers with stamens float across the surface giving an impression of the flowers in movement as though through time lapse photography

The diptych Winter Garden Evening I & II is a diptych (\$4500 each) with images of plant forms seen from within a Winter garden enclosure. The plant forms and the structure of the enclosure appear to be abstract shapes and grids. This notion of control and organisation is reinforced by the overlay of another grid which overlaid on the images.

The work gains added interest with the graffiti like scrawls in the silver leaf which has been used as

a background.

Gina Jones is showing new work at the **Page Blackie gallery** which further develops her interest in light and the creation of space. These sculptural works use light, reflecting surfaces, steel and perspex to create works which are at once solid and illusory.

The Untitled Twisted Series (\$8400 each) have a twisted metal surface though which changing coloured light is emitted. The twisted metal however creates a series of shapes on the flat metal surface like section of Mobius Curve adding to the surreal quality of the work.

Untitled – 3D Box (\$9300) is a free standing perspex cube which where the changing colours give the work the sense of an extra celestial object glowing and pulsing

The large Untitled -Rotated Square on Paper (\$7800) resembles the interior or plan of a skewed ziggurat with soft light highlighting the shapes.

Untitled – Small Square (\$8000) is a 426mm square box and 85mm deep but by use reflecting surface and lights the artist has created a space which appears to recede into infinity.

Untitled – Mirrored Square (\$6500) has two surfaces surface of reflective steel at right angles to each other. Each has a thin opening, one vertical , the other horizontal through which light glows The reflection of each these strips creates a cross form on each of the surfaces so that they look like many of Ralph Hotere's highly reflective works of the 1970's.

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