

A fantasy for fun fans

A FUN affair about fans and fantasy is the last exhibition to be held at the New Collectables in Victoria Park before the gallery shifts to Fremantle.

It's an apt theme for the exhibition given the sweltering heat we have had lately — which prompts the question: Why are fans not back in fashion?

Artists were invited to submit pieces which stretched the conceptual boundaries of fans and fan imagery, and a diverse range of fans and fan-inspired objects by 43 artists adorn the floor and walls.

Many created humorous and innovative artworks while others worked within the traditional concept, playing on the image of the fan and its construction.

In the innovative category is Mark Watkin's *Futale Skirt* of fabric, papier-mâché and lacquer — a delightful, ultra-feminine creation in lolly pinks, based on the fan shell.

Word plays are another source of inspiration. Joan Campbell's *Fantasmagoria* is a giant fan painted with ghoulish phantoms.

The theme has inspired most artists to create beautiful objects out of clay, glass, wood, fabric, feathers, paper and paint.

There are elegant fan car-rings in bone china by Sandra Black and Cheryl Hancock, and not-so-elegant ones of twigs and balsa wood by Mary-Lin Litchfield and Tom McMahon.

THE latter are a bit heavy-handed in construction and more sensitivity could have been used in their colouring without losing the richness.

Helen Clark's *Fandango* is a stunning piece using cut paper and silk screened fabrics, while Wendy Lugg's *Indigo Fans* reveal sensitivity to fibres and textural surfaces.

The show would not be complete without some reference to that integral part of movie matinee culture, the *Fantale*.

Jill Smith fills the bill with her boxed mixed media piece *Fantails* (a typographic error?) while the sweet company concerned kindly donated the real product for the occasion.

With 68 exhibits spilling into both front and back galleries no wonder New Collectables needs to move into the wider spaces of the Royal George Community Arts Centre.

Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday 11am-5pm, Thursday to 8pm. The show runs until Sunday, February 28.

GALLERIES

ROBIN TAYLOR

THE first public exhibition of works by Artemis Women's Art Forum members — *Artemis Exhibits No Second Thoughts* — opened last Sunday at the Film and Television Institute in Fremantle.

With 38 members exhibiting 76 works in various mediums, the show is as much a statement about achievement through cooperative effort as a show dealing with issues of concern to women artists.

The polemic underpinning the exhibition is based on the assertion that there is a specific feminine mode of perception and communication that has not been given proper critical appraisal or acknowledgement.

THIS is a complex area of debate and a number of the works set out to try and address the issues involved with varying success.

The very construction of some works reveal facets of the debate, such as *Softly Through the Ages*, a hanging of quilted and embroidered fabric which directly refers to traditional forms of women's art and expression.

Jane Mitchell and Stephanie Dimmock worked together on the piece, making the point that such cooperative practice was once typical of women's creative work.

In a different vein, I particularly liked Judith Dinham's suite of three drawings of the nude for their play on ideas, associations and the use of illusion.

Titles such as *Women's Quarters* and *Seraglio* are both plays on words and illustrative of specific cultural roles and perceptions about women.

Other works deal with more universal themes, such as unemployment and equal opportunity. Krystyna Petryk-Woznica's *A Story of One Unemployed Photographer* is a documentation of images and text taken from 'Dear Jill' letters she received as an unsuccessful job seeker.

If you like humour with your message, consider Susan Latter's *30,000 Lemmings Can't Be Wrong*, an installation of footprints in (Johnson's?) talcum powder leading into numerous pairs of high-heeled shoes.

As with a number of works, the title provides a key to help decode the image.

This is a show worth thoughtful viewing. It runs until March 11 and opening hours are from 11am to 8.30pm Monday to Sunday.



● Touch of Fantasy: David Reed's work Pompeii

The Gallery Circuit

Van Hall Gallery
23 Hovia Terrace
South Perth
367 7020

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-5pm,
Sat 10-Noon
Oils, Watercolours & Unique
Limited Editions

Gallery Australia
96 Fitzgerald Street
Perth
328 2568

Hours: Fri 10.30-6pm,
Sun 2-5pm
Mixed exhibition
of Australian
Landscape

Goodridge Gallery
239 Beaufort Street
Perth
328 4817

Wed-Fri 11-5, Sat 10-12,
Sun 2-5
Opening 23rd Feb with an
exhibition by
Ziemond Grochowski

Glyde Gallery 32 Glyde St Mosman Park
383 3929. Open 10-5 7 days. ART OF THE
UNIQUE PRINT. A Cultural Exchange between
USA and Western Australia during the
Festival of Perth. Original Monoprints by 45
artists.

Bay Gallery of Fine Art
1 Bay Road
Claremont
386 3060

Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6pm,
Sun 2-5pm
Auction Sat 20th Feb. Recent
John Blakely works 11am.
Viewing normal hours.

New Collectables Gallery
643 Albany Highway
Victoria Park
362 6960

Hours: Wed-Sun 11-5pm
Fantasy an
exhibition on a
theme by 40
different artists.

Artlight Gallery
160 Railway Parade
Leederville
381 6144

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5pm,
Thurs to 7.30pm
Mixed exhibition by Australian
artists and sculptors.