

Art Monthly

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A tale of two biennales | Cai Guo-Qiang's 'Falling Back to Earth' | Remembering Martin Sharp

artnotes

New South Wales

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Regional focus

Orange Regional Gallery offers the immersive experience of being surrounded by John R. Walker's enveloping 'Terroir Big Land Pictures' this month (15 March – 27 April). Walker, who lives and works in Braidwood in the Southern Tablelands, has painted the region since he moved there in 2002. His large-scale canvases are epic narratives of land, place and time. To coincide with Walker's survey at Orange, Utopia Art Sydney will be staging an exhibition of the artist's most recent paintings and works on paper – a response to travelling by car from Braidwood to Broken Hill in October 2013 and documenting his journey.

Beyogmos

Mai Nguyen-Long's curiously titled exhibition at Wollongong City Gallery (1 March – 25 May) blurs the boundaries between science and mythology using the space as a pseudo laboratory to question what is really beneath the skin of labels. Over the past decade Nguyen-Long's mixed-media works have evolved as a metaphor for her Vietnamese–Australian background and the nomadic journey she experienced as a child and young adult moving between countries and across cultures in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Curator Gina Fairley has brought together some new series with existing and continuing bodies of work. The exhibition shares the journey of Nguyen-Long's maturity through a suite of intimate drawings, mixed-media works and charcoal animations, effectively bridging a 15-year gap.

Intersecting with Scrap Wall

Art Month Sydney has returned for its city-wide celebration of contemporary art (1–23 March). Presenting a selection of international and Australian artists, alongside a program of art-based talks, workshops and industry events, this year's program takes its inspiration from the theme 'Intersections + Parallels'. Artistic Director Scrap Wall is all about creating meaningful art experiences for this year's agenda – with a particular focus on the current popularity of cross-disciplinary collaborations with such fields as fashion, design and film. With the 19th Biennale of Sydney, 'You Imagine What You Desire', kicking off on 21 March, it's a heavy schedule for art enthusiasts in Sydney this autumn.

Changing places

Glenn Barkley is leaving his role as Senior Curator at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA). Having joined the MCA in 2008, Barkley will continue to work with the museum in a freelance capacity attached to key projects through 2014–15, including the November survey show of Chuck Close. He also plans to pursue 'some other things that have nothing directly to do with art' – though he did pop up as an exhibiting artist in 'CLAY', a ceramic group show at Utopia Art Sydney earlier this year. Barkley trained as a painter himself before jumping into museums and galleries.



John R. Walker, *Crust*, 2012, archival oil on polyester, 184.5 x 477cm; image courtesy the artist and Utopia Art Sydney

Mai Nguyen-Long, *Specimen (detail)*, 2013, used glass vessels, found and mixed-media objects, dimensions variable; image courtesy the artist and NG Art Gallery, Sydney