

Accomplished, engaging



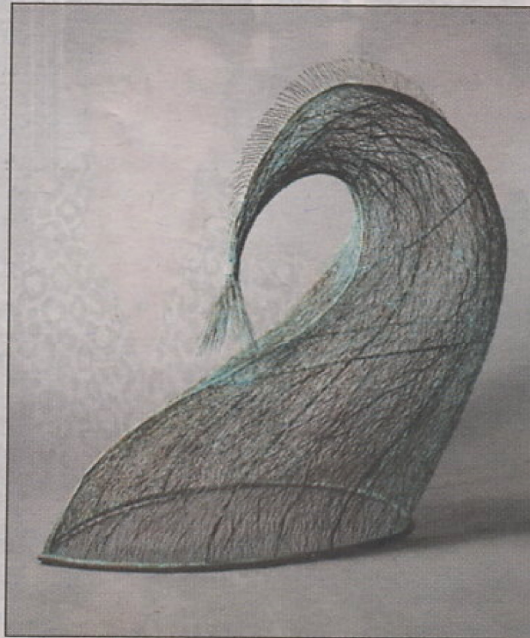
CHARLY OGILVIE

Review

Denese Oates, *Sculpture*, and Adrian Lockhart, *The Studio*. Beaver Galleries, 81 Denison Street, Deakin. Until March 5.

THE WORK of Sydney-based artists Denese Oates and Adrian Lockhart is showcased in two adjoining exhibitions at the Beaver Galleries. Both artists contemplate media, nature and form in their work, Oates's copper sculptures mimic the lines and sinews of nature in their twisting, curving lines and intricate tensions, Lockhart's paintings contemplate the spaces and subjects of the artist's studio.

Oates's works in copper wire and plate are meditations on the shifting and flowing forms of the organic world. The shapes of her sculptures contrast with the industrial materials used, the works combining the solidity of metal with the ephemeral delicacy of spidery branches and flowing waves. Several of the works comprise tree-like forms enclosed in wire basket-like cages,



TENSIONS: *Kowtow*, a work by Denese Oates.

their encasing of nature once again referencing the tension between the organic and the constructed. Oates's sculptures are complex in their intricacy yet simple in concept, their combination of tension, balance and surface resulting in a series of objects that explore their subject with cohesion and beauty.

The images in Lockhart's series *The Studio* are paintings about the process of painting, depicted in rich deep blues, textured ochres and shimmering whites. Several images feature paintings within paintings, allowing the artist to combine representational depiction of the studio with the free-flowing lines and gestural brushwork of the works in progress leant against its walls.

Lockhart's creative debt to Cezanne is emphasised in the artist's statement as well as in the works themselves, his still lives, such as the simple yet effective *Sketch and limes*, referencing the master as he modulates forms through colour and shade.

Although the majority of the works on display are overt in their depiction of the artist's studio, some of the most pleasing images are less clear in their connection to the overarching theme.

White Bowl and *Chinese Bowl* both depict the simple form of a bowl against a plain background. Lockhart has combined this simple subject matter with a strong handling of colouration and composition to produce paintings that achieve his aim to "create [images] of sensual simplicity".

Oates and Lockhart have both provided accomplished and engaging work in these series, their assured handling of media and content resulting in two enjoyable if not groundbreaking exhibitions.