

# Arts

## 'Shunt' shows grunt from State's artisans

### Shunt

Platform, Melbourne

**W**ITH Increased pressure on South Australia's publicly funded galleries to export Adelaide artists rather than predominantly import interstate artists, some Adelaide artists are doing it for themselves.

Now on show in Melbourne at Spencer St Station's Platform, *Shunt*, curated by Anton Hart, is an exhibition of Adelaide-based artists, or artists from Adelaide who have moved interstate.

*Shunt* - a blunt title suggesting railways - includes work by recently announced Samstag recipient Craige Andrae alongside Anton Hart, Louise Haselton, Rick Martin, George Popperwell, Angela Valamanesh, Linda Marie Walker and L.E. Young.

Platform exhibition space synthesises the public domain and private gallery conventions, with glass vitrines used to exhibit art works, positioned along the subway walls at Spencer St Station. Focusing on the notion of a journey, each artist was allocated two display cases. With no clear indication of which

work was by what artist, some works' authorship, such as Haselton's *On Your Way*, was easily identifiable, whereas Valamanesh's small text blocks taken from newspaper headlines, reminiscent of Robert MacPherson, were quite unlike anything shown previously by this artist.

Martin playfully represented traditional materials in *Gilt Head* with success and probably the most immediate appeal - using Latin names with gold-leaf objects placed carefully in the plush blue velvet-lined display cases. Hart's *Thin Moments* had a cool confidence and elegance, while Popperwell's complex *Visit*, referencing absence, exploited make-do shabbiness.

Andrae's bonsai tree under grow lights had a comical humor but the garbage bag seemed a little too easy. With a particularly delicate sensibility, Walker offered small paintings and colored Art Deco glass ashtrays. This potent exhibition reflects an entrepreneurial approach by Adelaide artists over the ever-increasing lure of the eastern States.

Joanne Harris