



Nothing to be Done by Chris Wake, 1.2m by 1m, oil and acrylic on linen, 2008

ACT NOW

Theatre of the Mind by Chris Wake

Venue 5 Opt Studio/Gallery, 5 Prince's Terrace, Midlevels, tel: 9640 0882

Date Until April 11

The artist Chris Wake was born in Adelaide, Australia in 1960. She used to work as a landscape architect but a near fatal car accident in 1996 became a turning point in her life: she decided to take her hobby seriously and become an artist. Her *Ned Kelly* series was used with Sydney Nolan's work for a theatre production at the 2003 New Zealand Festival of Arts and she enjoyed sell-out shows in Melbourne and Singapore. It is Wake's first solo exhibition here.



Chris Wake – "we are here for a good time not a long time"

Inspirations "I love to watch, absorb and ponder how people interact," says the artist. "Everywhere I go, whether it is at a gathering, the beach or the food market, I am always observing." Her work is inspired

pervades my thoughts and constantly swims around my head."

Her themes Wake lives next to the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden in the Adelaide Hills — what she calls a "patch of paradise" — so many birds, flowers and eucalypt branches appear in her paintings. "It is a way of reminding people about leaving the planet in good order for future generations of all species of flora and fauna," she says. "Another constant theme in my paintings is sharing a meal and a glass of wine. This is reflected in my life, as I love to bring people together and cook for them. I believe life should be celebrated as we are here for a good time not a long time."

New work "Theatre of the Mind explores the ability of the human brain to develop our imagination, to create our own play or story through a subconscious collection of memories and experiences," says Wake. "My theory is we all have the ability to imagine another reality if we create the time and get into the right mind space." It is partly inspired by Samuel Beckett's famous 1940s play Waiting for Godot in which peoplse amuse themselves by eating, talking, sleeping and singing while waiting for the arrival of the mysterious Godot. "I relate this concept to people who wait for life to happen tomorrow without realising that life is unfolding in real time every second."

BIRD IN THE HAND

Glide by Ye Yongqing

Venue 5/F, Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wanchai

The artist A graduate of the Sichuan A Arts, Ye Yongqing belonged to the New Ment in China in the 1980s. In 1980s outhwest Art group with the likes of Ma Xiaogang and Zhou Chunya, organising tion by 100 artists in his native Kunminties in Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqingroup lasted for only a year, the name them to this day. Now 50, Ye is an assat the Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts at founded Upriver Gallery and a self Chengdu and has a loft in Kunming.

Inspirations "As time goes by, life's or realities are my hobbies," says Ye, not always been exposed to painting and has developed and changed through phrases of his life so his painting style is



Ye Yongqing – a leader of the Southwest Art gro

His themes In 2000, Ye started to use subject matter and these have beco works. "The most popular themes in are landscapes, flowers and birds," he paintings are often seen too. Painting cultivating relationships; flowers and b ishing the heart. In the Chinese schol and birds represent beauty and taste. to commoners the word bird resemble I like the contradiction of the meanings His view "Chinese contemporary art influences all along," says Ye. "After ha long periods of cultural changes, Ch now become freer and more open min On show One of Ye's biggest exhibition spective of 30 years of his work. because it is a combination of my ar ences; sometimes I feel lost but I still for everything," he says. A few pair colour contrasts. "People view my won to me they are representational."

