

magazines and I thought that they were flat. Flat disks. Incredible, isn't it?

'Incredible,' said Mum playing patience with an air of subversion. Little beads fell out of Nastasya's eyes as she diced the onions.

'Oh how good . . . how wonderful, yes . . . just like Christopher Columbus.' She shifted her weight onto the other foot and slowly shook her head.

'It's so funny and so sad. I mean an orange. Not knowing about an orange.'

'Isn't it just,' said Mum.

'Discovering oranges. I love it.' Dianne leant gently against Nastasya as if they had been close friends for years. She would be lowering her eyelids wistfully and the name Nastasya would be rolling off the husk of her voice for months to come. The old man sat down and played his own game of patience. He moved like an animal underwater, skin mottled, cards thudding like lifeboats against the sea bottom. After a while he raised his hooded eyes and fixed them on Nastasya. Rivulets of tears began to flow down the wrinkled surface of his face.

'There is a song. It is called "Blood in the Cockpit". Shall I sing it to you?'

'Please don't,' Mum said desperately.

'Please do,' said Nastasya. She showed him her red stained hands.

'Beetroot is very good for you. The Russians can live on it for months.'

AUCKLAND CITY ART GALLERY

AUSSEMBLAGE

*Everyday objects transformed*

26 May – 24 July

A major exhibition of installation and relief sculptures by fifteen of Australia's leading sculptors. Assembled materials include bottles, cans, bread loaves and smashed windscreens – a fascinating display of artistic imagination, ingenuity, recycling, transformation and humour.

UNRULY PRACTICES: SYLVIA SIDDELL

29 July – 18 Sept

The last in a series of exhibitions by feminist artists living in Auckland who have made important contributions to New Zealand art over the past fifteen years.

GORDON WALTERS IN CONTEXT

12 Aug – 2 Oct

A pioneer of abstraction in New Zealand art, this exhibition will position Gordon Walters' painting in its New Zealand and international context. The exhibition will also assess Gordon Walters' influence on artists of subsequent generations.

ONE FOOT HAS NOT YET REACHED THE NEXT STREET

*A photographic installation by Keith Arnatt*

12 Aug – 2 Oct

Thirty-nine large-scale photographs through the unfiltered lens of British artist, Keith Arnatt. Arnatt crosses traditional boundaries between man-made waste and rural splendour, popular and fine art photography.