

Edited by JASON ROMNEY

# Garbage shows wit of Walker

## VISUAL ART

### Murray Walker: The River, The Port, The Journey

At the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, the Domain. Until August 12

### William Gleeson

At Eastgate Gallery, 729 High St, Armadale. Until August 12

Reviewed by Ronald Millar

**M**UCH that is meant to be art is a load of old rubbish. So it's nice to see an actual load of old rubbish that turns out to be art.

Murray Walker, once (and probably still) a competent painter of easel pictures, has over the past few years decided that art ain't all paint, and has put together a show that for wit, ingenuity and variety makes other exhibitions of assemblage look dull.

Yet with old thongs, bottle tops, pop-out pill containers and the assorted glop thrown up by the tide at Port Melbourne, Walker ennobles the garbage and sets it adrift again on its new journey.

There's a great tradition of collage and the re-shuffling of found objects (Walker must find some funny things around the "lower reaches of the Yarra") and Picasso and Klee and Schwitters were not the first with it. More recently, Rosalie Gascoigne and Klippel are more formally elegant than Walker in their use of discarded objects.

But Walker's way includes whimsy, sexual icons, votive offerings, seascapes with ships and containers. He uses faded maritime colors to convey the sense of place, Mediterranean heads in a landscape, primitive totems and fertility figures.

Walker, always aware of the ironies and quirkiness behind respectable facades, is never pompous, and he puts these effects in place as if he means them to stay put; as if he'd made a painting. It's a thoughtful and amusing exhibition.

## Exhibitions

**Murray Walker: The River, The Port, The Journey.** July 13 to August 12, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dallas Brooks Drive, The Domain, South Yarra. For information and opening times phone 654 6422.

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## GALLERIES

JAN BLENSDORF

**R**ECURRING cycles of breakdown and regeneration are an underlying theme in the works of French artist, Christian Lapie at ACCA until 9 September. Materials taken from the Champagne region — the landscape of the artist's childhood — are used in many of the assemblages for which Lapie has earned an international reputation (South Yarra 654 6422)

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THE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Dallas Brooks Dr, The Domain, Sth Yarra. Works by Christine Lapie. To 9 Sept.

Friday Age  
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24. August 1990.