

A2

Shaking their tail feathers

Aussie girls at the Moulin Rouge

Also
Picnic time at
Hanging Rock

And
Andrew Denton
under interrogation

PICTURE: PHILIP CASTLE

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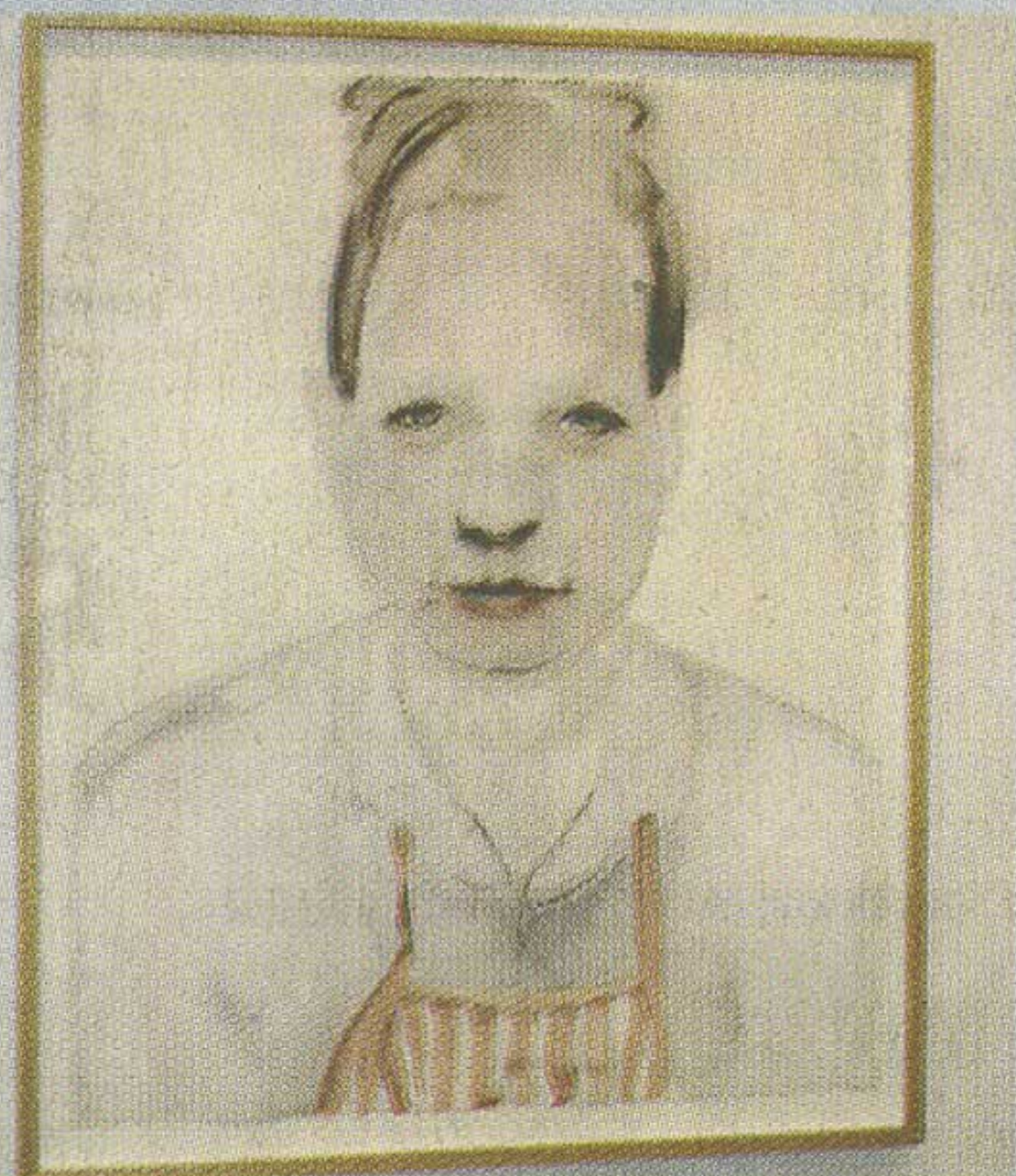
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AROUND THE GALLERIES

MEGAN BACKHOUSE



Earning her stripes

EVEN when Fiona McMonagle isn't working in collage, her watercolours have the look of having been cut and pasted. In her portraits of supermarket staff, for example, the faces seem to lift off the paper in a way that lures you closer to the work. Though some of the show's smaller watercolours (with everyday subject matter — a petrol pump, hotel room, pumpkins) do genuinely have a collage element, they are also linked to the portraits by the soft red-and-white stripes that make their way into every picture in this show. *Crew* is at Crossley & Scott (Crossley Street, City, tel: 9639 1624) until March 5.

Long on detail, short on height

JAMES Morrison's key work is more than 16 metres long, but only 30 centimetres high, and appears like a fantastical time line of life on earth. Moving along the 55 panels, we see caves, a volcano, snow-capped mountains, oceans and waterfalls. There are cold-climate animals roaming on ice and tropical creatures in lush forests. Other densely worked paintings are included in this show, as well as works on paper and a DVD. The exhibition is presented by Darren Knight Gallery and closes today at Silvershot (3rd floor, 167 Flinders Lane, City, 10am to 6pm).

Enigma pixelations

SUSAN Fereday's new installation is made of old records painted in black, grey and white and arranged over the walls so they resemble a pixelated photograph. The scene is set by the text incorporated on some of the records ("I try my hand at the grease recycling business"; "I wonder what the cut-off age is for breast-feeding"; "I am a kissing bandit on the run"). Fereday's exhibition also includes a similarly enigmatic series of found images of a road trip through rural England in the 1950s. Her works (called *Latent Image* and *Ilisley Green Road*) are at Sutton Gallery (254 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, tel: 9416 0727) until March 16.

Rug runners

ALEXANDRA and Leigh Copeland have returned from their latest travels in Asia with more kilims, carpets and other textiles. As well as colourful quilts fashioned (in the 1950s, '60s and '70s) out of discarded clothing and more subdued traditional rugs, there are a series of carpets designed by Alexandra and hand-woven in Afghanistan. *Woven Treasures* is at Glen Eira City Council Gallery (corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, tel: 9524 3402) until March 6.

Fashion in the groove

THE colours are more consistently on the bright side in this exhibition of Australian clothing from the 1960s, but that's not to say it's all psychedelic swirls and patchwork effects. The exhibition (which includes pieces by such labels as Magg, Tu and Prue Acton) looks at the way ready-to-wear took hold in a decade that still influences contemporary fashion. *Flair: From Salon to Boutique. Australian Fashion Labels Through the '60s* is at NGV Australia (Federation Square, Flinders Street, City, tel: 8662 1553) until August 14.

Texture and bronze

MATTHEW Bax's pictures variously incorporate string, window blinds, even a tea-towel, but the way these objects are so worked into the canvas with paint means that their various textures are as important as any references to domesticity. His paintings are showing alongside bronze sculpture by Martha Waijop at Uber Gallery (52 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, tel: 8598 9915) until March 24.