

COURTNEY KIDD
GALLERIES

When junk's no longer rubbish

On the cutting edge

While on the other side of the world critics of the Turner Prize are bemoaning that there is not a painter to be had among this year's contestants, a visit to the cryptically titled exhibitions *Rubik* at Sarah Cottier Gallery and *that was now, this is then* at Gitte Weise Gallery will have you thinking that, at the coal face of contemporary art, traditional-format painting and sculpture are dead. These two shows from emerging artists offer splendidly gritty, witty, and at times downright annoying examples of ways that materials and ideas torment old-guard boundaries, and in often quicker time than it takes for a lick of paint to dry. At Gitte Weise try Nuha Saad's painted skirting boards, Simon Cavanaugh's cacophonous machines or Tim Silver's skateboard scuffs in Crayola crayons for starters. Less theme park, though no less vital, Sarah Cottier segues from Andrew McQualter's down-home doodles to Julia Gorman's rumbling abstractions, while Ricky Swallow's Mac-inspired models in pigmented resin will take you back to a time when an apple referred to just that.

Gitte Weise Gallery, until June 30. Phone 9360 2659 Sarah Cottier Gallery, until June 30.