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THE AGE

Your weekend: In the galleries

March 31, 2012

FIGURE AND GROUND

Dan Rule

WITH Jane O'Neill and Utopian Slumps director Melissa Loughnan as curators, Figure and Ground gathers a handful of contemporary artists - including Claire Lambe, Marco Chiandetti, Misha Hollenbach, Rebecca Delange and Sarah CrowEST - who perpetuate, disrupt and mutate traditional methods of working with clay. There are some fascinating results. Rob McLeish's drooping, torn, exploded forms mimic the ooze of wet clay and the drape of torn bubble wrap in slick, glossy epoxy resin, while Sanne Mestrom's stunning vessels and objects resonate with the classic formal elements of disparate eras, yet do so via an endearingly DIY methodology. Stephen Ralph's striking totemic sculptures are a clear highlight. Using concrete, meticulously carved wood, terrazzo and gold leaf, they forge striking towers skirting Corinthian detailing, kitsch ornamentation, modernist materiality and industrial aesthetics.

Wed to Sat noon-6pm, until April 7, Utopian Slumps, 33 Guildford Lane, city, 9077 9918, utopianslumps.com