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SUBSIDE

Kirsteen Pieterse
 Recently at
Martin Browne Fine Art
 Sydney

EMERGING SYDNEY-BASED ARTIST KIRSTEEN Pieterse is more than quietly pleased.

Buoyed by a series of recent competition successes, she is riding even higher with the celebration of her first solo exhibition — and selling to a high-profile Australian collector. Pieterse designs and meticulously crafts unique and intricate sculptures that interpret ways in which we impose ourselves on the natural environment, and the consequences of this juxtaposition.

In Subside, her latest body of work, Pieterse continues to display the precise fusion of technical and conceptual talent that is her signature.

Utilising architectural modelling material, Pieterse has created a series of sculptures that are scaled-down versions of constructed walkways in a state of disrepair and collapse. At the same time these structures imply the landscape around them through their form.

"The structures are intended to evoke nostalgia, fear and unease and question our regard for, and relationship to, the landscape," she says. They also reference her personal sense of alarm and vulnerability. The result is a series of thought-provoking, very dramatic works.

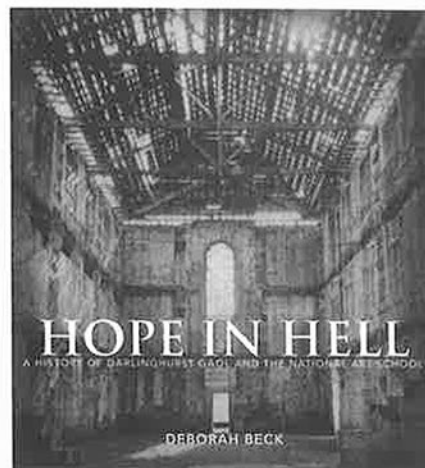
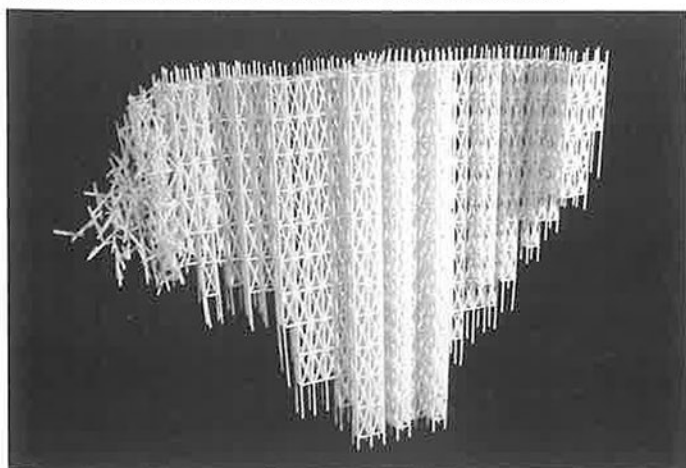
Born in Scotland and educated in the UK, Pieterse has completed commissioned sculptures in London, was winner of the 2004 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Viewers' Choice Award, and a finalist in the 2005 National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition, National Gallery of Australia. ■

Janet Haynes

For further information go to
www.martinbrownefineart.com

See www.artreview.com.au for a direct link to this website.

Gully, 2004, Kirsteen Pieterse, foamcore, 80cm x 110cm x 15cm.



Hope in Hell: A History of Darlinghurst Gaol and The National Art School
 By Deborah Beck
 Allen & Unwin
 ISBN: 1741147395
 RRP: \$39.95

NORMAN LINDSAY, CHARLES BLACKMAN, WILLIAM Dobell, John Coburn, Frank Hinder, James Gleeson, Margaret Olley, Tim Storrier, Martin Sharp, Ken Done, Reg Mombassa and Norman Hetherington (a.k.a. Mr Squiggle) represent just a small cross-section of the illustrious alumni of the National Art School.

Steeped in a lurid and flamboyant history, its well-trodden, colonial sandstone buildings lie behind the brooding walls of the old Darlinghurst Gaol in inner-city Sydney. In his verse *The Song of a Prison*, Henry Lawson describes one of the gaol's three-tiered buildings: "The reception house is below it, so the gates of Hell are beneath".

Hope in Hell: A History of Darlinghurst Gaol and The National Art School is an absorbing glimpse into the brutal history of Darlinghurst Gaol and its transformation into the National Art School, arguably the oldest art-teaching institution in Australia.

The account begins at the time of construction in 1822, and follows its penal history until 1914, when its inmates were moved to Long Bay Gaol. The book describes the ensuing decade of neglect until it was transformed into the home of Sydney's art scene first as East Sydney Technical College and later as the National Art School (NAS) in 1935.

Author Deborah Beck, a former NAS student, is a painter and an NAS drawing lecturer. The book is packed with astonishing and quirky information from the gaol's construction and stories about its convict inmates, to the rise of the NAS and the cavalcade of talent and colourful personalities who have passed through its sandstone portals. Illustrated with detailed sketches, maps and over 200 photographs, *Hope in Hell* takes the reader on a journey into the unique history of a gaol that has been home to murderers, bushrangers and the stomping ground of some of Australia's foremost artists. ■

Footnote: In December 2005 the NSW Government announced that the National Art School (NAS) and its Darlinghurst campus would be put under the management of Macquarie University. While retaining its autonomy and unique identity, this initiative will give the NAS greater financial security, which will provide for the restoration and maintenance of the historic Darlinghurst site and the opportunity to expand its course offerings. SW