

Believing is Seeing

Reviewed by Ric Spencer, 'The West Australian' 31 March 2007

Angela McHarrie's first solo effort *Believing is Seeing* is a clever show, full of visual limericks that engaged me in their humour. Reminding me of playgrounds the world over, McHarrie's balls, ladders and chairs play with balance, tension and gravity and in doing so question the limitations of art making, or at least its ability to describe the world we live in.

Perhaps, rather than limitations, McHarrie's pieces at Emerge Gallery offer us the possibilities of art making. McHarrie's enormous amount of work comes in all shapes, sizes, mediums and processes – something you cannot do when you limit your subject matter and colour palette.

All the variation of processes offers us the investigative ramblings of an inquiring mind and an artist willing to engage in some serious contemplation. However, this is done in a fun way with more than a hint at the circus traditions of juggling and slapstick humour.

The works I enjoyed most included her *Cognitive Processes in the Dimensional Interpretation of a Figure*, a high jumper represented in various configurations on a cube interacting with a ball, and the digital prints in which she has engaged objects in space in the way Gabriel Orozco did a few years back with oranges on a table. Sometimes it's the fear of infinite possibilities that stops us from beginning but I'm glad McHarrie did



Visual limericks: Three chairs and a pencil by Angela McHarrie
