

# The New Zealand Herald

## TJ McNamara: Strokes on a broad canvas

Life as a child seen through the spectacles of adulthood is the subject matter of the surreal work of another immigrant artist, Joon Hee Park, at Orexart. This vivid exhibition has works full of sharp detail, generally of toys, all observed by a childlike figure with an adult face. There is just enough knowingness in the face to bear comparison with Paula Rego, the British painter who does similar situations but with more savage tensions.

The work is at its most obvious in *Temptation* where the figure sits by a window surrounded by large lollies, mostly liquorice allsorts in bright colour. The still-life realism of much of the work is carried out with consistent accuracy, with snail shells, lobsters, dolls or even jellyfish in *Jellydream*.

This makes some paintings very static. An exception is *Spiky Journey* where the girl is floating over hill and lake in a teacup supported by an accurately painted, smiling puffer fish. Here the *Alice in Wonderland* quality really takes off.