

Michael Smither: known and unknown

"Entry is free on Mondays," said the smiling attendant. Free! Every student's dream.

Right away I knew I was going to enjoy the Auckland Art Gallery's Michael Smither exhibition.

Completed during Smither's years in New Plymouth, many of the show's paintings are autobiographical, focusing on the domestic lives of Smither's young family.

Smither has said, "by observing children closely, I can get very close to the magical process of creation".

The dollish children in his paintings often have disproportionately huge eyes and starfish-

Exhibition
Michael Smither: The Wonder Years
 Open until January 2006
 Auckland Art Gallery
 Review by Emma Moore

like hands, giving the viewer a sense of the almost surreal wonderment and vulnerability of childhood.

Smither never posed his children to get the perfect composition.

He says he knew them so intimately that it wasn't necessary to artificially provoke the facial expressions he wanted.

Smither is widely regarded as

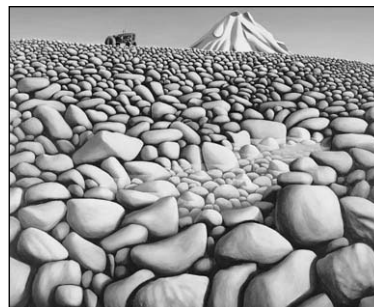
one of New Zealand's foremost realist painters.

Several of his most well-known landscapes in this style are included in this extensive collection of works from the seventies and eighties.

Many viewers will recognise *Mountain with Rocks* - his iconic image of Mt Taranaki painted from a ground level perspective on a rocky beach.

In a video interview in which Smither discusses several of the paintings, he notes this unnatural viewpoint makes the mountain seem like a mere pimple erupting from the smooth surface of the rounded stones.

A dedicated environmentalist,



Smither's intimate knowledge of the countryside surrounding his hometown New Plymouth comes through in his landscapes.

Although his paintings tend to be bold and often use a limited colour palette, this understatement of style allows the

artist to focus on the emotions of the people and the drama of the landscapes.

Several works from Smither's print production period are included in the show, as are some large scale religious paintings depicting biblical scenes.

These pictures will be unfamiliar to many viewers and provide an insight into other aspects of Smither's artistic fields.

This is the first major Smither exhibition for more than 20 years and is an opportunity not to be missed by anyone interested in modern New Zealand art.

Especially on Mondays.

Unplugged resurrection for Keys

In this latest instalment from modern-day soul diva Alicia Keys, one could be forgiven for thinking that Keys - at the tender age of 24 - has the life experience of a woman twice her age.

Her newest album, *Alicia Keys Unplugged*, is part anthem to the broken-hearted woman, part journey into musical styles of the past. The album has successfully blended these elements without going overboard. Just when you think you might have had enough talk on how a lady should be treated, the song selection takes a subtle move in a different direction.

This is the third album from Keys and is part of a revival of MTV's unplugged performances, which were highly successful for Eric Clapton and Nirvana during the 90s. While bands like Nirvana had a distinctive style unplugged,

Music
Alicia Keys Unplugged
 In stores now
 Review by Rosie Cotter

this session feels slightly over-produced and misses some of the rawness that makes an unplugged session memorable.

The album's highlights are in the duets and covers. Teaming up with Maroon 5's Adam Levine for the Rolling Stones' classic *Wild Horses*, the pair perform a heartfelt rendition and their styles mesh well together.

Keys showcases her stylistic range towards the end of the album, collaborating with the likes of Mos Def. But these tracks seem a little out of place. The funky hip hop track *Love it or Leave it Alone* shows that Keys

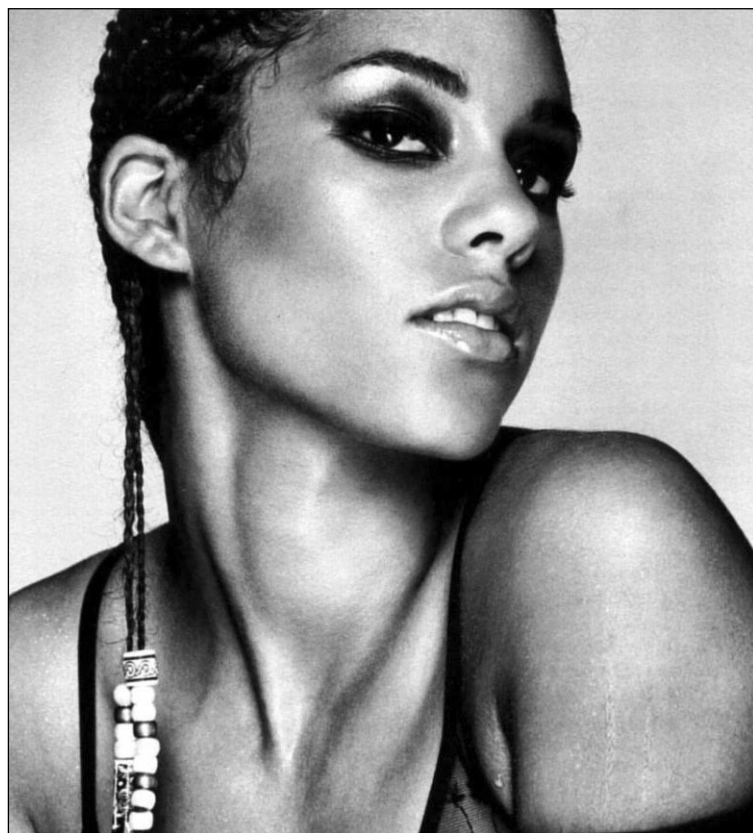
can MC along with the rest of them, but amping up the crowd at the end of a relatively mellow album may not be the best way to go about it.

Bravely handing the final track, *Welcome to Jamrock*, over to Damian Marley, Keys may be forfeiting a show-stealing finale. But it is refreshing to see an artist confident enough to share the show.

Keys doesn't ignore her dedicated fans and the show includes major hits like *Fallin'*, and new track *Unbreakable* keeps the fans interested.

But for those new to Keys, variety is the selling point of this album.

And if you are a bit wary of all the hype surrounding her previous albums, this is the best way to get a taste of the real Alicia Keys.



music



Lisa Lashes

The Studio, 340 K Rd
 October 23, 9pm

Lisa Lashes is the only female DJ to be voted amongst the Top 10 DJs in the world by *DJ Magazine*. As part of her world wide tour she stops in Auckland for our aural pleasure.

The Bleeders

Kings Arms Tavern
 59 France St

October 29, 8.30pm
 Bleeders with special guests Losing Face, Cinix & Cobra Khan.

Fashion Week Official After Party

4:20, 373 K Rd

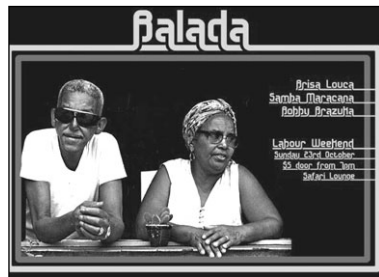
October 21

Featuring Isaac Aesili, Kolab, Tim Phin, Funky Riders, Timmy Schumacher, Mr Big Stuff and the Humble Bunch.

Music for Freedom

The Pump House
 Killarney Park, Takapuna
 October 29, 7.30pm

A fundraising concert for Burmese refugees organised by the Friends of Refugees Trust. Bookings: 09 489 8360



Balada

Safari Lounge
 116 Ponsonby Rd
 October 23

A true Brazilian party featuring Brisa Louca, Samba Maracana and Bobby Brazuka.

planet fm 104.6

- Mon - Bookends 9.05am
 KCR (Korean) 9.40am
 Leo Taogo Niue 5.25pm
 Tongan Health 9.45pm
- Tue - Samleng Khmer 2.10pm
 Radio Punjab 4.55pm
 Russian Leisure 6.35pm
 Tamil Culture 8.45pm
- Wed - Maitreya 9.05am
 Radio Buddhist 1.35pm
 Thai Radio 9.25pm
 Ireland Calling 10pm
- Thur - Tongan SDA 4.50pm
 Kannada Vani 7.05pm
 Samoan Health 7.40pm
- Fri - Catholic Opinion 2.10pm
 Jhankaar (Hindi) 3.50pm
 Talanoa Fiji 6.30pm
- Sat - Latin Radio 10am
 Allo Congo 3.35pm
 Satu Indonesia 4.40pm
 Turkish Bazaar 7.35pm
- Sun - Radio Shalom 9am
 Sisu (Finnish) 1.15pm
 Vietnam Radio 1.50pm

sarah's pick: Labour Weekend on Waiheke



Waiheke open-air cinema

Onetangi Road Vineyard
 October 21 - 23
 The giant outdoor cinema screen is back on Waiheke with three great movies: *Deep Blue*, *The World's Fastest Indian* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Queen of Arts Exhibition

Onetangi Hall
 October 21 - 23
 More than 20 local artists will be showing their work. Paintings from two Paremoremo prisoners will also be on display.

Sunday Markets

Artworks courtyard
 October 23, 10am - 2pm
 Sunday markets start again on Waiheke.

Waiheke Art Award

Waiheke Community Art Gallery
 October 22, 5pm
 The Waiheke National Art Award for two-dimensional works in any medium.

The Waiheke Art Award exhibition

Waiheke Community Art Gallery
 October 22 - November 16
 24 works of art selected from 179 national entries will be displayed at the gallery.

The Museum Comes Alive

Waiheke Historical Museum, Onetangi Straight
 October 23, 10am - 3pm
 Open day at the Museum on Sunday. Discover Waiheke's history while exploring this comprehensive collection of artifacts. The village consists of the Woolshed Museum and two restored cottages replicating a bygone era, with textile displays and a photographic gallery with various interesting stand alone exhibitions.