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Interest in bushland

In a second Festival offering the Off the Beaten Track Gallery, Norwood, presents two exhibitions by young painters Susan White and Adrianus Vanderbyl.

by Elizabeth Young

Both find subject matter in the characteristic growth and bushland of Australia, yet the limited approach of each is a world apart.

Although Susan White was born in SA and trained at the SA School of Art before attending the Julian Ashton Art School in Sydney, this is her first Adelaide exhibition.

Her strength is in draftsmanship and sensitive observation of trees and their branching. She discovers lyrical grace in twisting limbs, as in "Bush Moot," "View of the Lane Cove River," "Broken Branch."

Sometimes this romantic treatment goes over the edge into a rather sickly sentimentalism and one is very conscious of fuzziness and lack of solidity when she essays a large landscape.

Adrianus Vanderbyl, who migrated from Holland in 1960, also trained at the SA School of Art and has had three exhibitions in Adelaide in fairly rapid succession.

Rapidity is perhaps his

besetting sin. He presents 55 sketches, large and small, down-to-earth impressions of Australian countryside, hasty versions on the theme, set down with a brush that is more eager than selective.

There is some ability here but it needs thought and discipline if the artist is to extend his knowledge and develop further. Among the most successful of paintings shown are "Fading Light," "Murray Cliffs II" and "Passing Storm," statements of a more specific response to nature.