

Cryptic, delicate scribbler on show

This cryptic and delicate show, organized by Geoff Lowe, is a collection of scribbles by thirty artists.

The broad sweep of artists, from Bill Henson to the architect's office of Edmond and Corrigan, includes known and unknown artists, and represents various styles.

Geoff Lowe made a list of names and each artist handed in four scraps of paper which are tacked on the wall in elegant sparse clusters. They gain new significance, taken from the private scrap pile or note book and placed in sanctity of the gallery.

The charm of the exhibition comes from the relaxed and nonchalant nature of the work. And to extend the line from Yeat's poem which forms the title of the exhibition, the "rough beast", artists' drawings

GALLERY

SLOUCHING TOWARDS BETHLEHEM

An Exhibition of Preparatory and Informal Drawings
200 Gertrude Street,
Fitzroy

'til 17th May
Review: JANINA GREEN

can be tardy, unformed, even horrible preparations for later, more finished works.

In some ways, like a Freudian slip, these informal scribbles give you a more direct insight into the artist than you would get looking at finished work.

For example, you can't escape the elegant fluidity of Elizabeth Newman's paintings in her brush drawings. Howard Arkley's brash, popish quality can be seen in the texta figures drawn on ripped pages of a pretentious and boring novel. Mickey Allen's resourcefulness is here char-

acterized by the gathering together of such diverse bits and pieces as a painted photograph of a figure underwater, a quaint naive drawing of a harbour scene drawn on a brown paper bag, and a rosette-like motif on the corner of a yellow page.

At first the exhibition

looks a bit intimidating and impenetrable. But you can enjoy the pieces for their own sake.

Tony Clark's drawing on cardboard from the side of a shoe box, of an eerie monolithic building planted nest to a wispy Claude tree, is just one strange and elegant example.

Kevin Lincoln and Jack Carrington-Smith, drawing from antique cast ca 1959.