

THE DUBLINER
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by ANNE IREMONGER

CAPITAL ART

Oddbod shows at IMMA shocker

JANAINA TSCHÄPE CHIMERA ★★★

Twisted vision

GERMAN-BORN JANAINA TSCHÄPE has spent much of her life in Brazil, that huge, fecund land where all is larger than life. Her first solo show in Ireland focuses on her painting, which is exotic and wonderful, with a supporting cast of film and photographs, somewhat less appealing. The title of this collection is *Chimera*, named after a beast with fused identities, a genetic mis-match of different creatures. Thus we have a series of mutations; hybrids that spring from Tschäpe's fantasy world, from imagined evolutionary biology and from the contemplative, melancholic and surreal influences that have impinged upon her world.

Her processes are multifaceted; they move from a series of drawings that chart the metamorphosis of a girl's face into that of a bird of prey, through to the use of paint and flowing thinners to convey the growth of vague, biomorphic shapes of plant life. She gives us monstrous, bulbous creations which trail like intestines behind the white-clad figure emerging from the murky water.

The best exhibits are undoubtedly the drawings of 'Possible Plants' and the paintings with titles like 'Slime Heaven,' 'Hortus,' 'Thicket,' 'Monsoon' and 'Swamp Thing.' These pictures ooze with the fertility and the scent of the decomposing jungle, and chill us with the possibility of things gestating within. They are beautiful, sinister, sensuous and atmospheric. IMMA until 28th September. www.imma.ie



For Tschäpe's photographed performance of horrid, wriggling biomorphs engulfing her, or which are part of her, she uses inflated condoms and balloons, latex and fabric.