

# Beauty in eye of its beholders

**T**HE latest exhibition at the wall gallery in Ascot Vale by artist Stephanie Smiedt sets out to embrace unconventional beauty.

*Sexy But Vacant* uses photographs taken from music videos and contrasts them with images from the Mannerist period to investigate contemporary perceptions of beauty.

Integrating lush mediums of oil paint on linen, generic

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**Bjork**

symbols from graffiti and fabrics from discarded curtains, *Sexy But Vacant* uses the process of collage to portray just how standard and decorative our perceptions are.

Icelandic musician Bjork, a classic example of unconventional beauty, has said: "Everything is so designed and airbrushed and Botoxed, it makes us think, oh, everybody's perfect except me. Everything's smooth except me. But nothing is smooth."

In developing the idea for *Sexy but Vacant*, Smiedt said she aimed to create a beautiful piece of art loaded with evocative colour that looked back at



**Stark contrast:** Stephanie Smiedt's art explores the ideals of beauty.

visitors. Reflecting modern views of beauty, music videos became Smiedt's muse.

***Sexy But Vacant*, paintings by Stephanie Smiedt, will feature at wall gallery from April 2-23. Details: 9370 0030 or visit [www.wallgallery.com.au](http://www.wallgallery.com.au)**

