

Justin Hinder and Sarah Crowest: Heaven-sent Crumbs **By Dan Rule**

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Justin Hinder and Sarah Crowest's new collaborative show Heaven-Sent Crumbs – which runs alongside Esther Stewart's stylishly saccharine-take, formalist abstraction at Utopian Slumps – operates via something of a quirky premise: Hinder's love of Joan Lindsay's classic 1967 novel Picnic at Hanging Rock. The results are as surprisingly convincing as they are fun. Hinder's compact paintings are stunning in their palette, composition and poky, economical daubs of paint, as they assume the form of fragmentary scenes and landscapes. Indeed, his thickets of smudgy strokes fashion evocative flashes of the land. Crowest's monochromes (which cite the tones and fabrics that feature in the narrative) and wall-mounted sculptures aren't quite as successful, but make up for it with humour. The sculptures are particularly enjoyable, taking on the guise of rather friendly-looking rock monster portraits.

Until July 26, Utopian Slumps, 33 Guildford Lane, city, 9077 9918, utopianslumps.com