FUTURES

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EXHIBITION

MATILDA DAVIS – ROMANTIC GEOMETRY: MEASURING THE EMOTIONAL SPIRAL

FUTURES Gallery, until Feb 26

At first it was Genesis creation stories that compelled Matilda Davis to paint seven pieces lingering on the concept of creation. Now, the Melbourne artist presents seven paintings on scientific creation, cast in a spiritual, cosmic gaze. The relative smallness of these paintings is held against the magnitude of her exploration: the Fibonacci sequence, the butterfly effect, geometry, numbers and supernovae. In chronicling patterns of the universe, the rules of existence seem as mechanical as they are magical. The paintings are detailed, but not preciously so. They could be called punk, but their brashness holds a respect and talent for the formalities of painting. The artist is playing a game of precision and spirituality found in female painters from Georgia O'Keeffe to Remedios Varo, yet Davis also irresistibly achieves what religion, science, mysticism and theosophy all undertake: to deal with creation itself **Tiarney Miekus**