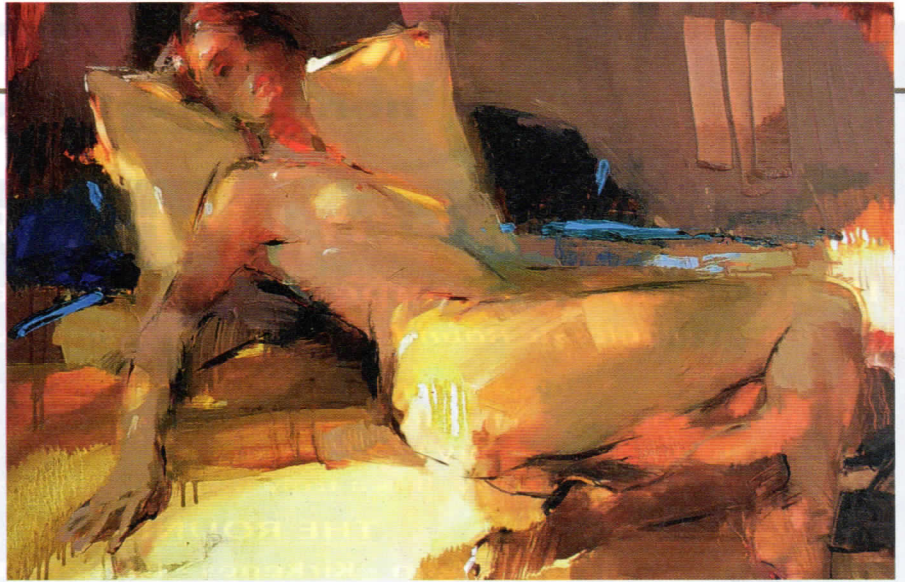


art



Take a journey of discovery

Exploring pathways through the inner-self and drifting within a background of storytelling, mythology and identity, two artists are brought together at Bath Contemporary this month to explore very similar yet diverse bodies of work.

Iryna Yermolova presents a very personal collection of paintings, her response to her journey over the past year as an artist, mother and woman.

She says: "This is an interpretation of my internal world, my feelings and dialogue with myself."

Her fascination with light and her almost innate understanding of the nature of oil paint fuse together to create canvases that almost glow. In this body of work, a true extension of herself, Yermolova's nudes are beautiful

women, graceful and sensual. The iconography and mythology are a reflection of her Russian Orthodox roots while the children are a reminder that Iryna is a dedicated mother to her son, Nikita. She says: "I try to use light as my main subject and the main part of my composition. I've drawn a lot of inspiration from Orthodox icons; earth colours, glowing golden light and calmness."

Exhibiting alongside Iryna are Melissa Kiernan's seemingly fragile porcelain sculptures, which belie the strength that underpins them.

Drawing from a rich tapestry of medieval art, biblical and mythological allegory, Melissa's delicate forms stare calmly and serenely into the middle distance as if contemplating the meaning of life. The irony is that while they appear frail we realise that they are



not, that porcelain fired to temperatures in excess of 1,200 degrees centigrade is robust and strong – a metaphor for life itself.

These two extraordinary artists present us with a glimpse into their worlds through exploring storytelling as a reflection of shared journeys through life. Embrace exhibits at Bath Contemporary until October 4.