

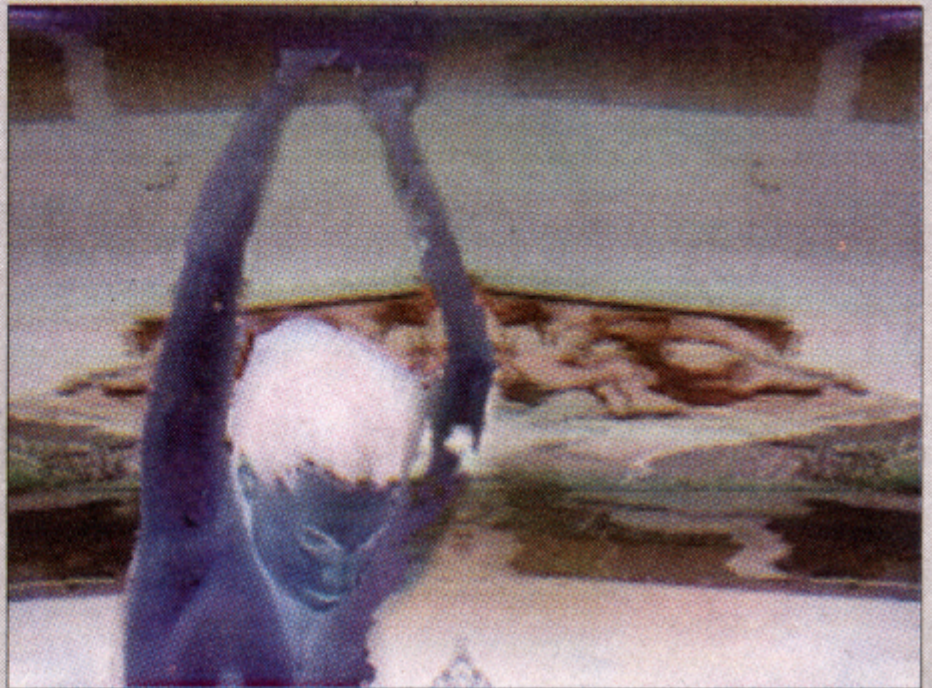
Art pick of the week

Minnette Vári
Downstairs at the Standard Bank Gallery
Until December 1

Minnette Vári maintains a persistent presence on the international contemporary exhibition circuit, with recent work on show at Amsterdam's World Wide Video Festival and the Venice Biennale. She is a nominee for this year's DaimlerChrysler Award.

Fascinated with the potential of software to achieve new kinds of image production, Vári's trademark has become exquisitely aesthetic but often abject experiences in video with morphing, mutating forms.

In *Mirage*, the old South African coat of arms becomes a Rorschach blot, then perhaps molten metal, as the legend beneath the form shifts from *Historiae ardore in spiritu nostro* (The heat of history is in our breath) to *Memoriae febre in venis nostris* (The fever of memory is in our veins). Drawing critical attention to the edges that exist



Aurora Australis by Minnete Vári

between appearance and reality, our relationship to fraught histories is given more torque in the face of her use of the image-making processes of media, entertainment and mass communication.

Aurora Australis is the product of research into the connective tissue Vári sees between scrambled signals from non-decoded pay TV stations with their

arbitrary soundtracks and the phenomenon of aurora australis — the southern lights.

Vári casts herself as an unknown actor in these scrambled screen grabs, replicating actions or completing them: "I would like to be able to read the signs of the world in the same way that the ancient peoples made sense of nature's everyday and more uncommon displays." Tel: 636 4231. — Kathryn Smith