



DRAWN CURTAINS

EMILY WOLFE's large, eerie canvases of filmy material are enigmatic, not quite revealing what's behind the veil. "There are hidden stories, and space for spectators to bring their own stories to the painting," says her Auckland dealer, Anna Bibby. "There's a touch of voyeurism."

London-based Wolfe, a graduate of the prestigious Slade School of Fine Art, is, like other successful young expat artists such as Karl Maugham, Peter Robinson and Ronnie van Hout, gradually raising her profile overseas while keeping a base of patrons in New Zealand. When *Metro* calls, she's in her Shoreditch flat staring into an empty suitcase as she packs for a trip home for her Auckland show this month.

She talks about the transparency of the curtains she paints, the ability to see through the netting into the darkness beyond. And the technical requirements of painting such fine work. Each of the 10 canvasses in this show required several layers of paint and "a certain amount of patience", says Wolfe. "I'm often tempted to paint over another layer before it's dry."

Emily Wolfe, Recent Paintings, Anna Bibby Gallery, Newmarket, until March 22.