



BOOKS

THE FIVE NOVELS OF F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Heinemann/Octopus 1977, \$24.50

With the eagerly awaited release of Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby* just around the corner, now is the perfect time to read the novel. Centering on the wealthy set of Long Island and New York during what Fitzgerald coined The Jazz Age and incorporating actual events from his own life with his flamboyant wife Zelda, *The Great Gatsby* is the most famous of Scott's novels. This collection allows the reader to track the evolution of Scott's writing style from his first novel *This Side of Paradise* to *The Last Tycoon*, published unfinished after his death at the tender age of 44. Irresistible reading.

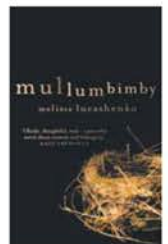


Chosen by Paula Herlihen, Atavist Books, Fortitude Valley

MULLUMBIMBY

by Melissa Lucashenko, UQP, \$29.95

Melissa Lucashenko has plunged her readers into the complicated world of indigenous politics in her first novel for many years. This award-winning author looks at the complications of native title claims by opposing groups of Aborigines in the Mullumbimby area. It addresses white/black relationships and the more tricky relationships between different language groups. There is a strong sense of landscape in this smart, surprisingly funny and beautifully written work, which will certainly go on to become a classic of Australian literature.



Chosen by Krissy Kneen, Avid Reader, West End

JACOB'S FOLLY

by Rebecca Miller, Canongate, \$30

Jacob was a Jew living in 18th-century Paris. He was a little bit arrogant and a bit of a ruffian, according to his father. And so when he comes back to life in 21st-century America as a fly, he's quite upset. Regardless of his circumstances, however, Jacob is still determined to make a difference. Miller weaves a story both historical and modern, both hilarious and heart-wrenching. *Jacob's Folly* is original and intriguing.



Chosen by Chloe Townson, Riverbend Books, Bulimba

Mapping creativity

Sue Beyer is an artist open to adapting her creative plan, writes Sally Browne

While you might try to apply a road map to life, you never know where it's going to take you. Artist Sue Beyer's journey has taken her on some interesting twists and turns.

In 2005, she quit her job as a successful graphic designer working for an advertising agency in Sydney to become a full-time artist.

Leaving behind such big-name projects as Red Bull, Triple J and TDK, she returned to Brisbane to study fine arts, graduating with honours in 2010.

It's a road the 43-year-old artist and roller derby fan has never regretted taking and already she has clocked up a number of successes, including large-scale public work commissions, private sales, solo exhibitions and awards. She was the recent winner of The Milburn Art Prize.

More recently – as in just six weeks ago – she made another about turn. She and her partner Sean bought a hotel out in Blackbutt, an hour-and-some northwest of Brisbane.

So now Beyer is not only a full-time artist but the manager of the picturesque, 100-year-old Hotel Radnor.

"It's full on," says Beyer, who hadn't tended a bar since her uni days. "I've actually had to move my studio into the pub so I can paint when I get time until we get into the swing of things."

"It's a beautiful part of Queensland, and the landscape is just gorgeous. I've found a lot of inspiration from it."

"The locals are really supportive and welcoming."



Colour play: Sue Beyer and some of her works, Undergrowth 11, Milburn Art Prize winner, (top) and Happy Valley 6 (middle).

Beyer is fascinated by landscape and the memories that public places hold – from a prison, to a hospital, to a conservation park.

Her new exhibition at Logan Art Gallery is called *Memory Palace* and her works embrace abstract landscapes overlaid with town planning maps.

"There's a park at Springwood that used to be a quarry," she says. "I started thinking about what it was before that, the indigenous people that lived there – there's quite big rock formations and caves. There's layers of memory and people's experience. It's all about layers."

And her paintings are about layers too. The town plans represent the meaning and order we attempt to put on the landscape, she says.

Beyer grew up on a farm near Gympie. She loved it there, until the big city called in her teenage years. After Brisbane, an even bigger city called, but now she's enjoying being back in the country.

While leaving her Sydney job was difficult, it proved the right choice.

"It was one of the hardest things I've ever done. I had to take a leap of faith. Now I'm where I'm supposed to be."

"I'm so glad that I did because I feel like I'm in the right place now doing what I'm supposed to do."

Sue Beyer's work is on display at TAH Gallery, Cleveland, until June 23, and also at Logan Art Gallery from May 24 until July 6.