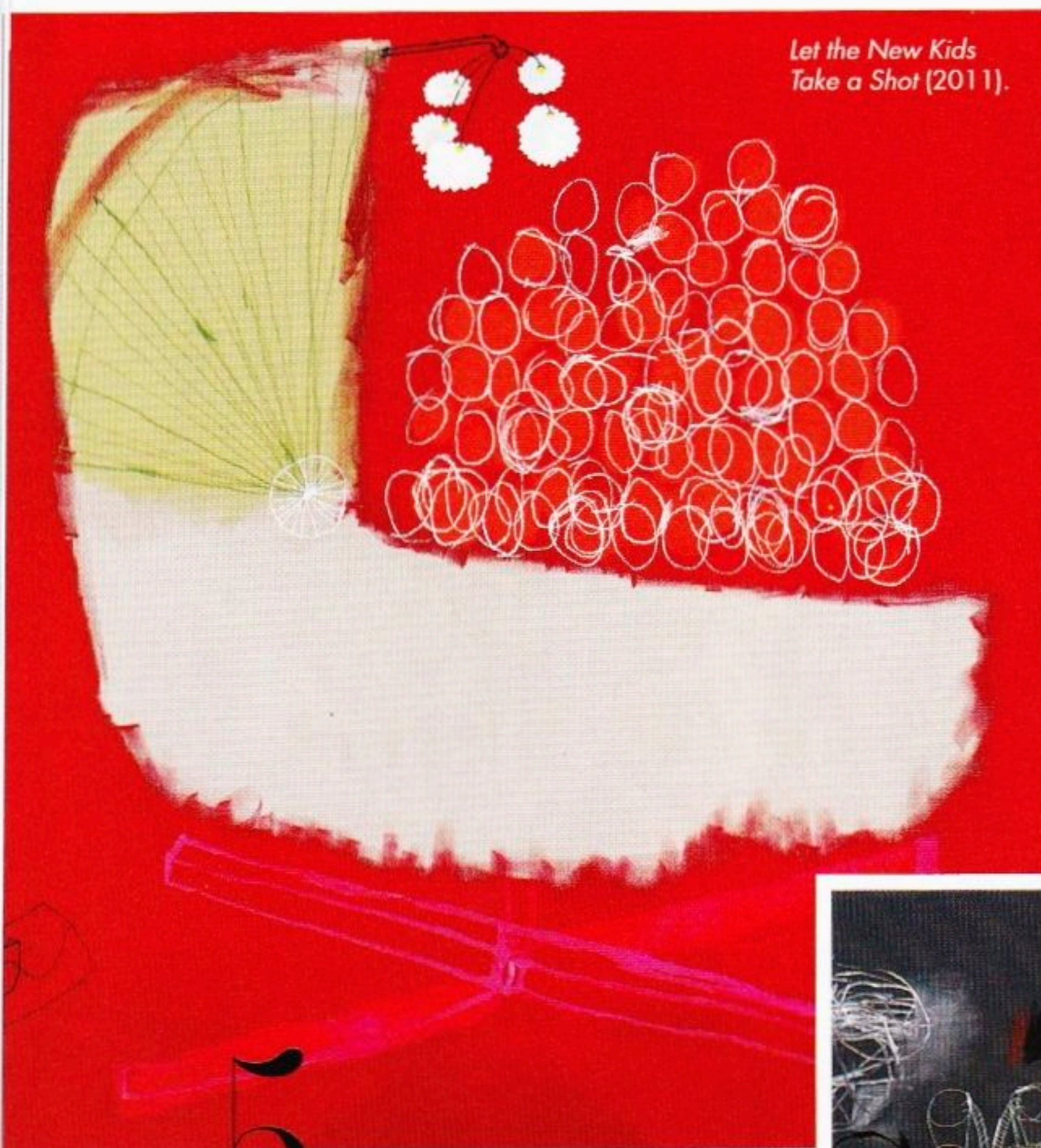
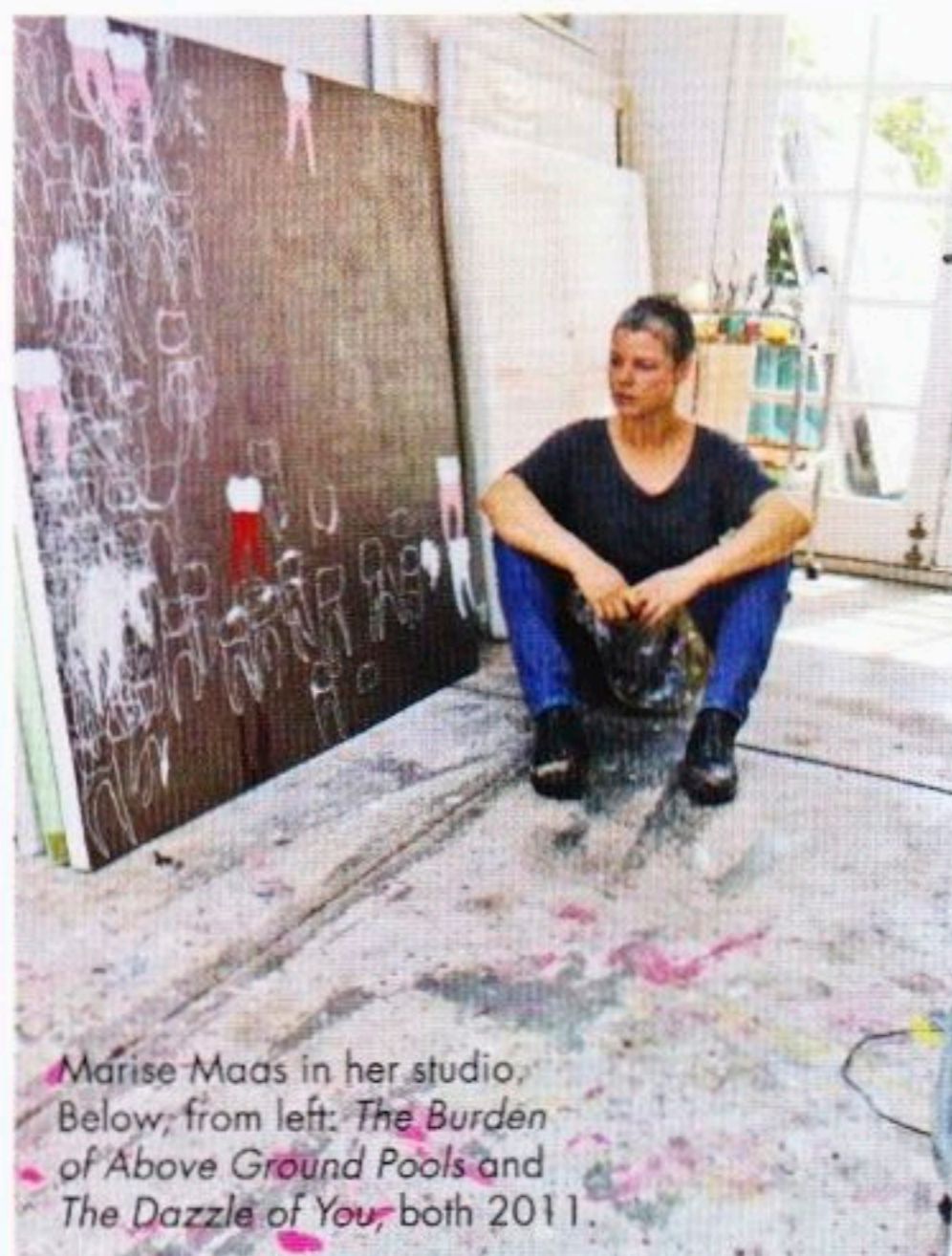


TALKING POINTS



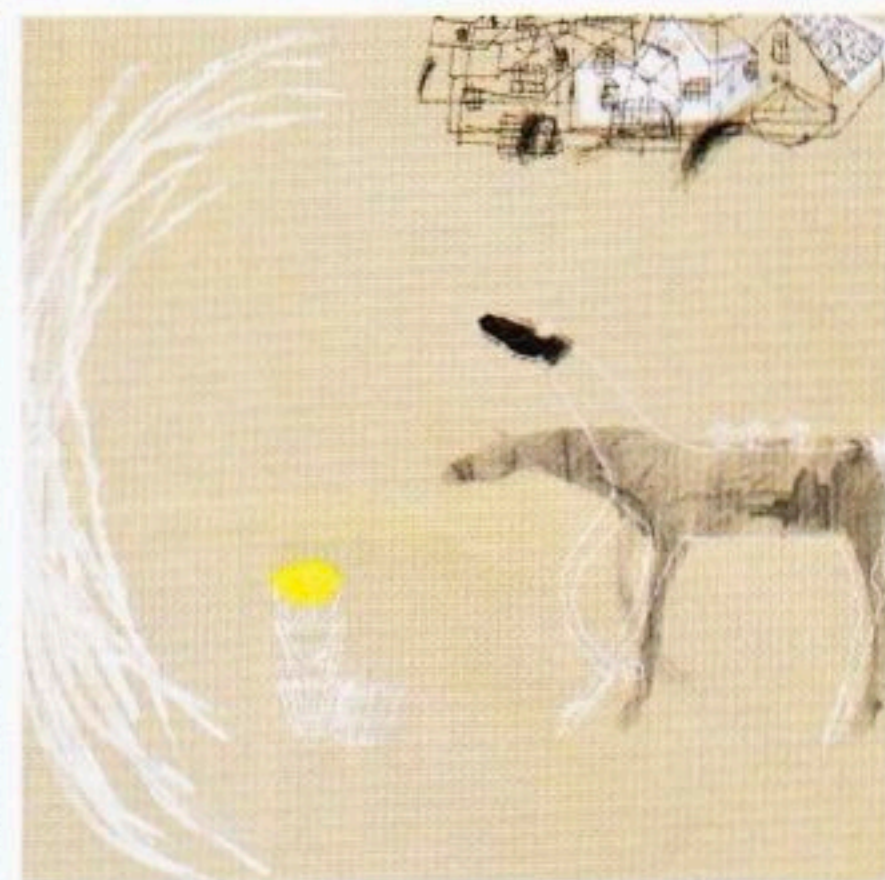
Let the New Kids Take a Shot (2011).



Marise Maas in her studio. Below, from left: *The Burden of Above Ground Pools* and *The Dazzle of You*, both 2011.

MAAS APPEAL

Artist Marise Maas looks at familiar things and paints them afresh. See her solo show at Sydney's MiCK gallery this month



Marise Maas fell into painting by accident. After training as a printmaker (she obtained a degree in Fine Art from the Tasmanian School of Art), she returned to her home country of Holland. It was there, when she was dismantling a '70s addition to her Amsterdam abode to reveal a lovely original high ceiling, that she decided to paint on the boards. "I started seriously painting after the ceiling boards episode," she says, laughing.

Maas came back to Australia in 1996 and settled in Melbourne. She's had successful exhibitions in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart and is now looking forward to her first solo exhibition in

Sydney in more than 10 years. "I was quite hungry to get a nice gallery in Sydney," she says. "It's high time."

Maas is known for her distinctive, almost naïve style and sense of whimsy. She admires artist Noel McKenna and is thrilled to be compared to him. "I use harder colours than he does, but I love all his work," she says. "He does a beautiful job of glorifying the everyday stuff, the stuff people just step over."

Maas could easily be talking about herself. Small, domestic subjects fuel her practice. A dress, an abacus, a pram. Horses appear as substitutes for people. There's a childlike perspective at play.

"All the small things, when you look at them up close, you find all this giant stuff inside," Maas says. She's mother to two boys, now aged eight and four, and juggles parenting (shared with her partner, a musician) with "beautiful, lonely studio time ... I try to keep my work separate from the whole motherhood thing," she says, adding, "Having children makes you look at the world with fresh eyes — you see it all over again new. I pinched that from them." — Susie Burge

See *Marise Maas: Small But Big*, February 27–April 1, at MiCK, 44 Gurner Street, Paddington, New South Wales, www.mickthegallery.com.

- DON'T MISS...**
- **LENNY KRAVITZ** is touring Australia for the first time in 18 years, March 17–28, www.mcmanusentertainment.com.
 - Philosopher **ALAIN DE BOTTON** presents *Religion for Atheists* at Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House, February 23, www.sydneypoperahouse.com.
 - **SOUL SINGER ERYKAH BADU** also performs at the Sydney Opera House, February 19–20.
 - Legendary composer **ENNIO MORRICONE** performs at the Adelaide Festival's opening night, March 2, www.adelaidefestival.com.au.
 - Soprano **MARINA PRIOR** and tenor **DAVID HOBSON** join the Perth Symphony Orchestra for the 2012 Concert Series, Leeuwin Estate Winery, Margaret River, February 11–12, www.leeuwinestate.com.au.
 - An eclectic mix of films features at **ROOFTOP CINEMA**, Melbourne, until March 31, www.rooftopcinema.com.au.
 - Western Australia's longest-running arts festival has something for everyone. **PERTH INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL**, February 10–March 3, www.perthfestival.com.au.
 - **MARCH INTO MERIVALE**, the hospitality group's annual food festival, is on March 16–April 5, www.merivale.com.au.