

misshapen if painted from life. But there are of course better works, too. Perhaps the first that should be mentioned is this austere black-and-white self-portrait by Nicholas Harding.

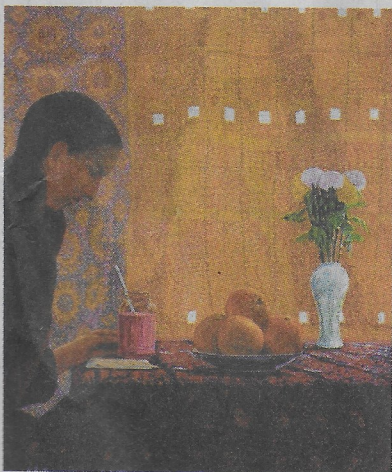
He is a distinguished portrait painter and a past winner of the Archibald Prize, but recently he has been very ill. Here Harding has painted himself, with stoic courage, in the middle of a painful course of treatment.

And here, on the other hand, is an artist who has not been a finalist before but has produced an un-

usual and absorbing self-portrait: Stephanie Monteith, whose touchingly self-effacing profile is contrasted with the richly painted still-life motifs in a composition that recalls symbolist and post-impressionist painters of the late 19th century.

And here is a fine portrait of one veteran artist by another: Noel Thurgate combines a vivid likeness of Elisabeth Cummings with a low-relief assemblage of objects evoking her life in the studio and in the bush.

There are quite a few other por-



Stephanie Monteith

The letter — I really wanted to paint Germaine Greer, but she said 'no'



Melissa Grisancich

Courtney Barnett and her weapon of choice