



Adilah Bundakji



A Saudi citizen raised in South Africa, Adilah Bundakji's Meccan lineage breathes through the collection of embroidered works she's exhibiting at Mondo Arte at the moment. Reminiscent of the black cloth of the Kiswah, the fabric used to adorn the Kaaba at the centre of Mecca, her pieces are very staid, even when they're depicting a burst of fire or the flight of a dove. Evenly composed, these embroidered works are almost sombre. The calligraphy is terse – there's an atmosphere of

the expansive silencing call of the muezzin frozen into these pieces.

Yet something outwardly conservative in its appearance is offset by the strange boisterousness by the artist tries to work into the fabric of her pieces. A fanciful flourish of calligraphy, seeming to rise across the piece and over the steely grey of the background, suggests something far less traditional – almost rapturous. Mondo Arte Gallery (04 372 4288) July 5-25