



**Seeing colour: Artist Daniel von Sturmer.** Picture: Astrid Volzke

## Simple ideas reframed and poured down the building

### WILLIAM YEOMAN

In 1917 Marcel Duchamp submitted a porcelain urinal for inclusion in an art show, changing the way we think about art forever. Chuck anything in a gallery, from an unmade bed surrounded by cigarette butts, empty beer bottles and undies to a dead shark in formaldehyde and hey presto, it's art.

In the case of public sculpture, the reverse is often true, with carefully crafted statuary ending up as blank canvasses for graffiti "artists" or, ironically, as urinals for passing drunks and dogs alike.

But Colour Bars, by Melbourne multi-media artist Daniel von Sturmer should be out of their reach. He has made a film of paint slowly being poured down parallel channels and is showing it on a massive LED screen mounted on the side of a building — in this case the Bishops See development at 235 St Georges Terrace.

"The colours are actually based on the standard TV test pattern," says the New Zealand-born Sturmer, who studied art at Melbourne's RMIT before spending two years at the Sanburg Institute in Amsterdam. "I'm interested in the

idea that you can use something so simple, something we're all familiar with, and by reframing it in some way you can come up with a metaphorical substance or a literal embodiment of ideas."

That's all very well and good, but how will motorists driving down St Georges Terrace react when they see colour slowly creeping down the side of a building?

"I wouldn't want people to stop their cars in the middle of the road," says Sturmer. "But if they do I'll be quite flattered."

Sturmer's work, which often involves placing everyday objects in unfamiliar contexts and the manipulation of space, architecture and visual phenomena, has been exhibited the world over. But this is his first public work to be displayed in Perth and he's curious about how people will respond.

"I'm very happy for people to come to the work on their own terms," he says. "And I hope it has some meaning beyond the initial experience."

**Sturmer's work is on show until February 27 from dusk until late as part of the Perth International Arts Festival.**