This Man and a Dog

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Photo courtesy of Physics Room

Ian Cheesman (sampler series)
Physics Room

Okay, facts first: the show's called An Automatic Welcome. There's a playpen wedding chapel, a small stuffed dog (the menacing variety) with a John Wayne loop and a real large gun-swastika wall feature with the L.E.D. text display "a little too loaded" embedded into it.

Judgmentally it's great. It's like a visit to the fun fair with all the candyfloss you'll ever need. There's something light-hearted about the show that makes it a joy to be around only it never seems to get you past the swastika which has become about as fun as a stuffy lecture.

Critically you know it's like the American-New Zealand suburban nightmare all played out in tweed neurotic style. Think happy families and bargain chips; "I'll give you this microwave oven, ten TVs and six Labradors for one shot at railing in immigration law." So it's bargain basin neurosis for a gentile association. Perhaps. Still it's rather fun, and worth a look in.

The plush crimson colours and Meccano kitset toys, not to mention the "let's poke fun at suburban lockdown and view the neighbours from the curtains paranoia," going hand in hand. There's also a neat little carpet, that mimes a floor polisher, or a Jasper Johns target (either way you're peeling back a refined taste) done in regal grey colours to complete the experience.

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