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Twiss victorious in winged works

By TJ McNamara

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Orex Gallery has an exhibition called *Ordinary Mysteries* by **Peter Wichman**, a painter long known for his groups of figures mysteriously engaged in rituals that have a sense of menace. In a complete change of subject, this show is made up entirely of still life - bottles and bowls, fruit and flowers, cacti and scissors.

In an odd way these objects are grouped so they seem to interact with each other like people. The tall spikes on the tops of bottles of eyedrops read rather like weapons.

The artist carries over from his previous work a special palette of colour with intense purples and violets and browns. The result is that in the best of the work, like *Razor*, there is a tense interaction between the objects, almost a confrontation.

That works well in *Meths*, where a jar of poisonous colour sets the mood. This gives a new slant on what often comes across as a played-out genre. An artist who can give a sinister emotional charge to a toothbrush or a cactus in a pot is rare.