

# SIGHTLINES

## CRITICAL GUIDE

### Intimacy revealed

VICTOR Fantauzzo has endured media scrutiny regarding his brooding Archibald entry of Heath Ledger, completed virtually days before the actor's demise. The triumvirate portrait features a Jesus-like Ledger inveigled by looming demons to his left and right. For my taste, this is pure compositional Grand Guignol despite signs of

virtuosic technique. But narrative kitsch is dispelled in Fantauzzo's simpler, more modestly scaled portraits. His cropped portraits eschew coldly technical



photographic realism, making intimate, micro-investigations of each sitter's skin, eyes and physiognomy. Blemished, wrinkled faces, pores exposed, grid across a small wall. Detail and difference, tenderly observed, stockpiles as an informal emotional, social atlas.

Frances Johnson

Victor Fantauzzo, *Scrutiny*, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, 108-110 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, until February 23, [www.diannetanzergallery.com.au](http://www.diannetanzergallery.com.au)