



Jasmine<sup>3</sup>, jasmine, steel, bearings, motor, electrical components, Laura Woodward, 2009.

#### VISUAL ARTS

### TIPS FOR ANXIOUS GARDENERS

**The Library Artspace, 100 Barkly St, Fitzroy North.**

**[thelibraryartspace.blogspot.com](http://thelibraryartspace.blogspot.com). Until Sept 11,**

**Wed–Sat 12–6pm.**

Curator Benedict Ernst has written a corker of a catalogue essay for this show. I urge you to see it before hippies attack the Library Artspace with fertiliser bombs. *Tips for Anxious Gardeners* is a brilliant attempt at bringing us closer to the environment. This is a tough ask these days, given we're either too worried about earth to enjoy it, or numbed to nature's visual impact by excessive "Tasmanian wilderness porn". The highlight is Laura Woodward's movement-activated NASA-style anti-gravity device into which a jasmine plant is strapped — and forced to dance. Michael Needham's magical Substratum (#2) lurks outside — an unexpected, vertigo-inducing excavation. Ernst's own neon sculptures bring the natural world and its abstract representation closer than they've ever been. **Penny Modra**