

NEWS



Thomas Demand, *Bullion*, 2003. Courtesy: the artist, Victoria Miro Gallery and VG Bild Kunst, Bonn/ DACS, London



James Graham, *Iddu [Him]*, 2004. Courtesy: the artist and Sketch, London

LONDON

RICHARD DYER

Alexandre Pollazon, the curator of Sketch gallery, has spread his wings and opened his own space at 11 Howland Street (www.alex-pollazon.com), just off Tottenham Court Road. This self-financed, spacious, high-ceilinged, glass-fronted gallery space is ideally equipped for large video projections, but the programme will be varied, and not just a continuation of the video and film work we know Alex for from Sketch. The gallery in fact opened with a painting show of the eccentric, hyper-kitsch sci-fi paintings of



Frank Bowling, *Remembering Richard Sheridan*, 2003. Courtesy: Rollo Contemporary Art, London

Andreas Dobler, which made no concessions to bourgeois sensibilities. Another recent exhibition was a single channel video projection by Swiss artist Una Szeemann, *Montewood/Hollyverita* (2003), in her first solo show in the UK, and the gallery is currently showing the work of Argentinean artist Juan Tessi (until 20 May). Other artists to be shown this year include Vidya Gastaldon, Juan Tessi and Jason Fox.

Meanwhile, back at Sketch, whose programme will continue to be curated by

Alex, James P Graham recently showed an extraordinary 12 channel video projection (Until 29 April). Originally shot on Super-8 film this work has been four years in the making. Shot on the volcanic Italian island of Stromboli, *Iddu [Him]*, 2004, is the first installation at Sketch to exactly match the unique 12 channel projection format of this venue. In a visual journey reminiscent of Dante's inferno we move from paradisiacal views of the island's flora and fauna, its rippling cane fields and dramatic sunrises and sunsets, to the boiling larval inferno that is the interior of the volcano itself. The pixel precision editing is of the

highest cinematic order and the twelve screen format is exploited to the fullest degree. The soundtrack, made on the island itself, consists of a combination of live sound and 'music' made on a specially designed Aeolian harp called an 'Analapos', by Japanese sound artist Akio Suzuki. A truly stunning work which is not afraid to allow the often 'dry' medium of film/video art to engage with notions of beauty, terror and the sublime. *Iddu* will next be shown at the Musee Grand Duc Jean Luxembourg (MUDAM) in 2007. Graham finally envisages

the piece being projected in a purpose-built twelve-sided dodecahedron.

Flora Fairbairn, who has been active as an independent curator for some time, and more recently as a curator for Studio 1.1, will be opening her own gallery in June. Madder Rose in Whitecross Street EC1 has been fashioned from two terraced houses by architect Patrick Lynch who won 'Young Architect of the Year Award' in 2005. The gallery will be on two floors with an outside space at the back for sculpture. Lynch will be showcasing the gallery project at the Venice Architecture Biennale later this year. Fairbairn and her partner Gus Maguire, formerly of the now defunct Program, will be launching the space with a solo exhibition of Rachel Kneebone's remarkable porcelain subversions of Watteau, Boucher and Bernini (www.rachelkneebone.co.uk), think Rococo erotica meets David Cronenberg in a late night genetic engineering lab. This will be followed by a group show of photography including David Birkin, Justin Coombes, Nick Hackworth, Tatiana Hamill, Ariane Hoseman, Laura Lauberte, Zoë Petersen, Valerie Stahl, Poppy de Villeneuve and Matthew Wilkinson. Later in 2006 there will be a solo show by Katy Moran. As Madder Rose will be taking part in this year's Zoo it seems appropriate that the gallery was formerly a butcher's, complete with a boar's skeleton in the cellar.

Langlands & Bell have won the BAA commission for an artwork to be installed in the pedestrian plaza outside Richard Roger's controversial Terminal 5 at Heathrow – due to open in March 2008. The commission was overseen by the Contemporary Art Society.

In March Chris Dobrowolski showed at Studio 1.1. His junk shop mechanical theatre tableaux seemed light-hearted enough at first, but

there is always a disturbing under-current of slightly manic intent. Toys, record players and train sets bring to life a strange half-world of deranged artists peddling their works at an art market disguised as a car boot sale. The work literally screams at the viewer 'Buy Me!' So much art these days does do this that it is quite refreshing to have it all out in the open.

This really is Frank Bowling's year; finally. At 70 this senior artist of British abstract painting has been belatedly elected as a royal academician. He left the UK in the 1960s for New York after continually being pigeon-holed in Britain as a 'black artist', while his contemporaries such as David Hockney, for instance, were never of course pigeon-holed as 'white artists'. Times have thankfully moved on and his solo show in April at Rollo Contemporary Art (directed by Simon Gillespie) was a solid indication of this artist's stature as a major British abstract painter. Larger works will be shown at the newly refurbished Roundhouse later this year and a solo exhibition at inVA's new gallery in 2008. A solo exhibition at the Royal Academy is however more appropriate as Bowling never wished to be seen as a 'black' Caribbean or 'other' artist, and will doubtless follow his election.

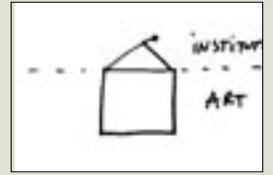
RECOMMENDATIONS

Serpentine, Thomas Demand, 6 June- 20 Aug, www.serpentinegallery.org

Whitechapel Inner Worlds Outside, 'Outsider artists next to modern masters', 28 April - 25 June, www.whitechapel.org

ICA, 'Becks Futures, Shortlist: Blood n Feathers (Jo Robertson and Lucy Stein), Pablo Bronstein, Stefan Bruggemann, Richard Hughes, Flávia Müller Medeiros, Seb Patane, Olivia Plender, Simon Popper, Jamie Shovlin, Daniel Sinsel, Matt Stokes, Sue Tompkins, Bedwyr Williams' Until 14 May, www.ica.org.uk

PRESS RELEASES



QUIMPER (FRANCE): LE QUARTIER CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER: Dan Perjovschi, EDITION LE QUARTIER, 2005 Tel: +33 (0)298 55 55 77 - www.le-quartier.net

Facsimile of the sketchbooks produced by Dan Perjovschi for his exhibition at Le Quartier (2 July - 16 October 2005) 256 p. Dan Perjovschi's ephemeral graffiti in exhibition spaces and in the street ask awkward questions about post-Communist identity, the pressures artists faced, and the arrogance of the West towards Eastern Europe. His drawings are funny, acerbic, and straight to the point.



VIENNA: LAYR: WUESTENHAGEN JOÃO PEDRO VALE

Until 27 May, www.layrwuestenhagen.com For 'quanta rariora tanta meliorahis', the artist's first solo exhibition at layr: wuestenhagen, João Pedro Vale presents 13 new sculptures. Resin, lids, wigs, stockings, chewing gum, punaises, coins and ostrich feathers are combined in challenging, beautiful but strange objects.

Image: João Pedro Vale, *Primus Inter Pares*



CAPE TOWN: MICHAEL STEVENSON GUY TILLMAN 3 May - 3 June www.michaelstevenson.com

In Petros Village, Malawi, 2006 Guy Tillman looks intimately at daily life in a village in central Malawi, quietly observing the residents, their routines and the textures of the place. In 2005 he won the Leica Oskar Barnack Award for Jo'burg, which was widely exhibited in Africa and Europe, and his Leopold and Mobutu series showed at the Photographers' Gallery in London.

Image: Guy Tillman, Petros Village, Malawi,



PARIS: MAGDA GALLERY MISS VAN

29 April - 27 May www.magda-gallery.com 'Lagrimas de Mariposas' (Tears of Butterflies), is a solo show of Miss Van's latest graffiti-style dolls; they are child-like and voluptuously feminine, angelic and devilish but above all shockingly provocative.