

Evening Standard

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magazine

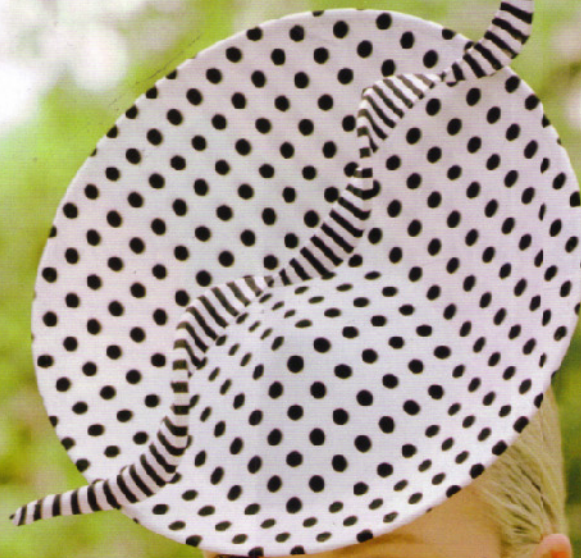
11 June 2004

Trouble at the top

The highs and lows
of Centrepoint

New blood

Meet the next
generation of Young
British Artists



Ladies' day

Philip Treacy & Lady Eloise Anson
- this year's favourites at Ascot

David Linley, Leslie Phillips, Howard Jacobson & Britney Spears PLUS What to wear on holiday

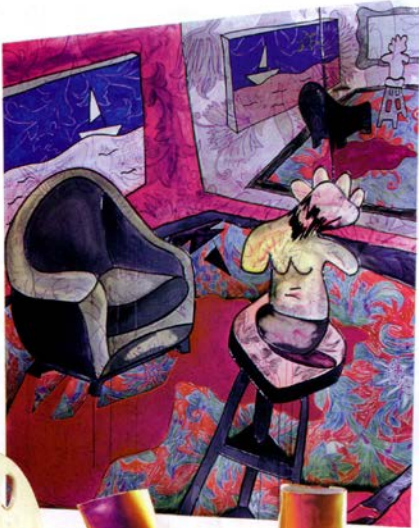
LONDON TRIBES

Young at art

Contemporary art has never been hotter. But who will Saatchi and friends turn to now that Tracey and Damien have grown up? Larushka Ivan-Zadeh meets the next generation of YBAs



From left: Lali Chetwynd,
Pearl Hsiung,
Conrad Shawcross,
James Hopkins,
Mauro Bonacina and
Alexander Hoda



Photograph by **Dominic Harris**



Lali Chetwynd 30

In the frame Euborant Dada-in-a-dressing-up-box performances guest-starring such characters as Jibba The Nut and giant carrots; plus oil paintings of fruit bats – “I’m very interested in ideas of ugliness.”

Joining the dots Pushkin, Brecht and the tribal rituals of Papua New Guinea are as much part of the cast as Cousin Itt, the hairy Addams Family character. “My shows are messy and fun and totally improvised – like carnival – but I heavily research them. There’s a lot to stimulate the mind.”

Set you back 20p to £2,000.

Private view Born in Westminster, the youngest of seven, dyslexic Lali grew up in a camper van, moving between film locations from Venice to Karachi with her Oscar-winning mother, art director Luciana Arrighi. Education was a haphazard affair – “I couldn’t write or read till I was ten” – but other skills learnt on movie sets, such as coating leaves with Marmite, fed her art work along with an anthropology degree from UCL (“I studied Orientalism in Star Wars”).

Garret College studio. Currently jobs, nomad-like, on friends’ floors.

Hangs Royal College’s current MA show – where she’s a sell-out success.

Kate MacGarry gallery also exhibits Lali’s props and paintings.



Conrad Shawcross 27

In the frame Mechanical Heath Robinson-esque sculptures such as *The Nervous Systems*, an intricate loom meets medieval time-keeping device producing 21,000ft of multicoloured rope per week.

Joining the dots “My work is inspired by physics”, cosmology, quantum string theory, and *The Odyssey*.

Set you back £4,000 to £20,000.

Private view Raised in Hampstead by mythographer/ novelist mother Marina Warner, Conrad was forever taking machines apart to see how they worked. Educated at Westminster, he still holidays in Cornwall with father William (the Queen Mother’s biographer), whose second wife, Olga Polizzi, owns the Hotel Tresanton. Away from a flashbulb life with actress girlfriend Sophie Hunter, Conrad likes “to get on and do my own thing”. Having installed *Inversal*, a \$16,000 conceptual piece of 24 motorised timber circles (rather like a Slinky), in Alexander McQueen’s home, he’s finally able to.

Garret Dalston version of Neverland – live/work Bohemian sprawl shared with a changing band of Lost Boys (and Girls) since student days at Slade.

Hangs Latest Saatchi acquisition, a caged loop of dancing light shows at New Blood 2 in a couple of months; saved from the Moriart fire by a courier mix-up.



Mauro Bonacina 26

In the frame Vast glossy paintings where severed limbs luxuriate in velvet drawing rooms.

Joining the dots Beneath the rich surface lurks an underworld of “slick pervelence and perversion”.

Set you back \$5,000 plus.

Private view Mauro could barely utter a word of English when his prosperous banker father deceased their “nice middle-class Italian family” from Milan to Leeds, plunging his 14-year-old son into a tough inner-city state school. Ever since, this entrepreneurial hip-hop producer and Goldsmiths grad has thrived on the extremes of British society – “I’d be as comfortable taking tea with the Queen as having a pint with her cleaner in my Bow Road local”. Finding his feet in a Cardiff art college, Mauro always knew where he was going: “I dreamed of coming to London and being bought by Saatchi [who purchased five Mauros in February]. In Italy, becoming an artist wasn’t seen as a serious career. The YBAs have made it all more possible for us.”

Garret Shares an artist’s collective studio in New Cross with Alexander Hoda and a Bow Street flat with video artist girlfriend Lior Danzig.

Hangs Next New Artists this October (www.nextnewartists.com).

Pearl Hsiung 20

In the frame Crazy videos of herself in a mad Mandarin moustache eating a variety of food, sexually charged foods. Canvases bogged with giant eyeballs, blood-red fried eggs and Haribo pink palm trees.

Joining the dots “Mysterious narratives express sensations bound up in the nexus of living.”

Set you back £500 to £2,000 (but shooting up).

Private view Pearl was just a toddler when her parents (banker father, ceramicist mother) relocated from Taiwan to LA to chase the American dream. A compulsive doodler (“kinda disturbed stuff like skulls with hooks in their eyes”) she survived high school by drawing her gang of girlfriends as kick-ass



comic-book heroines: “I always got to be the one who ruled the world!” This impish rock chick is the hottest tip among Goldsmiths’ class of ‘04 (“I didn’t do much research – England was a gamble”), whose hipsters barely hide a Guns N’ Roses tattoo.

Garret Subterranean college cubicle sunk inside an abandoned swimming baths.

Hangs At MW Projects until July – the gallery of Max Wigram, partner of Phoebe Philo.

James Hopkins 27

In the frame 3-D mind-benders such as *Cat and Mouse*, a plastic fantastic explosion of bombs, guns and knives that clicks into the faces of *The Simpsons’* Itchy and Scratchy when viewed from precisely the right angle.

Joining the dots “I like to present a recognisable perspective – then collapse that into a realm of total perplexity.”

Set you back £5,000 to £20,000.

Private view “I love excess!” admits James, whose precariously worked up bench, *Topsy Tumble*, was one of the most popular new balances at Charles Saatchi’s inaugural New Blood last year. Rejected three years in a row from every London MA course, and discouraged by his accountant dad and



housewife mum, this Mancunian-born Goldsmiths grad now has the last laugh. Sadie Coles is a public fan. Saatchi owns seven Hopkinses, and his tipping installations have upscaled from pints on pub tables to half-glugged bottles of Cristal on grand pianos.

“My parents are now very proud,” says James.

Garret Airy live/work white Rubik’s Cube in Docklands.

Hangs Selected sculpture at MW Projects. At Mario Testino’s house you can see his sapling-handled axe.

Alexander Hoda 24

In the frame Pervertly glamorised sculptures of iconic objects.

Joining the dots Draws on porn and toys to explore our greed for gratification.

Set you back £3,500 to £5,000.

Private view “I’m not claiming I’m the new Damien Hirst; protests this Goldsmiths grad, “but Damien’s certainly an inspiration.” Born in Canterbury – his Indian father is a GP, his mother produced *Top of the Pops* – Alex says, “I’d love new art to have the buzz of a new hit single.” Rather rock-starlike himself in King’s Road cowboy boots, Death’s Head T-shirt and ripped Hellmut Lang jeans, this ex-Marlburian art scholar has the well-heeled look. Larry Gagosian recently approached him at a Miami art mart with the tip that Rachel



Whiteread’s latest was going for £200,000. “I had to tell him I was an artist – not a buyer!”

Garret Lives in a Hoxton apartment behind Victoria Miro; shares New Cross studio with Mauro Bonacina.

Hangs This October, he launches Material, a showcase for Next New Artists in the former Sierra Leone Embassy at Portland Place. “It may be utopian but I want people shopping in Topshop to go, “Hey there’s an exhibition in here – let’s go check it out.”

‘I dreamed of being bought by Saatchi. The YBAs have made it all more possible for us’

Mauro Bonacina