

Cuckoo Farm goes pop with artist Tim

by LESLEY HEUER

WORK by some of the top sculptors in the eastern region will be exhibited in the grounds of Cuckoo Farm Studios, from tomorrow until September 12, as part of Outside.

The event will also provide a platform for Tim Skinner, of Hatfield Peverel, who graduated from Colchester School of Art and Design last year and became the first recipient of The New Graduate Award Scheme, the result of a collaboration between Colchester School of Art and Design and Cuckoo Farm Studios. The aim of the scheme is to kick-start the career of a promising young graduate.

Recently shown at firstsite @ The Minories, and known for his large scale artistic interventions that have included a fully functioning tank, a hovercraft and a 'plane, Chris Dobrowolski makes playful, interactive works from recycled materials, which are often triggered by the viewer.

Printmaking, perspex, vitreous enamels, ceramics, collage and painting are all part of the toolbox of Dale Devereux-Barker, and members of the Cuckoo Farm Print Workshop have been lucky enough to benefit from two courses given by him at Cuckoo Farm in recent years.

The opportunity at Cuckoo Farm has offered time and space to make site-specific work should the artists so desire.

Clare Iles, recently selected winner for this year's Essex County Council initiative, the Essex/Picardy Artist Exchange Scheme, has been busily doing just that for some weeks. Clare is interested in the history of recycled objects 'as symbols of a collective



SHOW TIME - Brit-pop diva Sonya Maddan, right, views Tim Skinner's work at Cuckoo Farm.

experience in a consumerist society'. Her assemblage projects appear in very different contexts such as lay-bys, industrial sites, schools and private gardens. She documents her interventions with digital photography.

Terry Flower is currently senior lecturer at the University of Brighton. He connects with the landscape through walking. As a sculptor and photographer he said: "Each work realises the changing cycle of detail, but celebrates the whole".

The sculpture by Matthew Chambers will be sited in the small greenhouse in the grounds. It is made from books and represents a bulb, which in botany is the storage organ for plants. The 'bulb' incorporates a sprouting megaphone, which will add sound!

Matthew is a lecturer in Fine Art at South East Essex College, Southend, and has exhibited widely in Essex, selected for the touring exhibition ArtFresh 2002, Over the River at firstsite @ the Minories,

Colchester. You will find his sculpture Sweeping Dog at Chelmsford Station, specially commissioned for Making the Connection.

Cuckoo Farm Studios has also given Tim Skinner, who graduated from Colchester School of Art and Design, the opportunity to show his work alongside these established and experienced artists.

By receiving the New Graduate Award, Tim has had the free use of a studio at Cuckoo Farm for a year and a bursary of £750 for materials from The School of Art.

He has made good use of his year, contributing to all events at Cuckoo Farm, including the tenants' exhibition held at the Buckenham Galleries, in Southwold, and a solo show in May in the Hay Gallery.

Most recently, he played host to Brit-pop diva Sonya Maddan, who took time out from her preparations for her recent gig at Colchester Arts Centre to attend the private view of his show Sonic Circled in The Benham Gallery at Cuckoo Farm, along with several members of her band Echobelly.

Tim is an installation artist who encourages audience participation at his exhibitions, which incorporate sound, light shows, water features, digital prints and large painted canvases! He is predominantly inspired by music and struck up a

relationship with Sonya through her fan club in his Foundation year at college. Admission is free, the show is open Saturdays and Sundays 11am-4pm. The last weekend September 11 and 12, coincides with the Colchester and Tendring District Open Studios weekend at Cuckoo Farm, when the artists throw open the doors to the public.



CREATIVE - Clare Iles gets down to some artistic recycling at Cuckoo Farm.



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