

Student Shows, a New Art Club and Surprising Works from Superstars

by Meredith Etherington-Smith

Art Info's U.K. correspondent fills us in on the latest news and most interesting shows from London and beyond. This week's letter includes a review of a post-grad student show; a report on a new, art-focused social club being launched by a major player; recommendations for two can't-miss shows in Edinburgh; and more.

This Year's Student Crop

One of the last of this year's many graduate shows was **Chelsea College of Art & Design's** "I'll Show You Mine" exhibition of students receiving their post-graduate fine art diploma. The work was not, honestly, universally surprising.

But it did offer a brand new art experience: interactive karaoke. **Benjamin Northovers** (benjamin_northover@hotmail.com) architectural video, whose small screen gives the work an intense clarity, was looped to the sound of **Handel's Dido and Aeneas** and displayed a karaoke "libretto" and had a microphone permanently switched on, inviting viewers to make a sound track.

Who could resist? I couldn't, especially when I found out that certain recordings would be part of the on-going development of this project. So I sang "ah ah ah deep in the ground my bones are buried" in my basso profundo. I'll keep you posted; avant-garde singing could be an entirely new career for me.

Other than this interesting interactive work, the show was, on the whole, mired in high-concept art, which made the few paintings on view look very avant-garde.

Best from this small group of paintings were tiny gestural works by **Christiane Pooley**, in which the intimate small scenes and figures in landscapes were boldly striated by horizontal strokes. I liked them so much, I might buy one.

Chelsea's MA and BA shows will take place from Sept. 20-23. It will be interesting to see whether the next generation of students will move away from high-concept art and toward paint. I'll let you know.