

June 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Britain showcases its talent: London Met's 2008 Art, Media and Design Summer Show set to be the biggest yet

The talent of some of Britain's most promising young artists will be showcased at London Metropolitan University's acclaimed annual Summer Show this week.

With more than 800 top London Met students exhibiting and over 2,500 pieces of work on display, the exhibition is set to reveal the Damien Hursts and Tracey Emins of the future.

Students from the University's celebrated hub of creativity, the Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design (JCAMD), will present work in 2D, 3D and time-based media.

From 11 to 15 June, the JCAMD's two buildings situated on the East London City fringe, a vibrant area recognised as a centre of excellence for both art and design, will be transformed into an exciting exhibition space. Student work in a wide range of disciplines will be showcased including Fine Art, Design, Photography, Jewellery, Furniture, Music Technology and Musical Instruments, Textiles, Digital Animation and Restoration, and Conservation.

There will also be exhibits at the Department's Metropolitan Works showroom and Unit 2 Gallery. Metropolitan Works is London's foremost creative industries centre and will display furniture and product design work. As part of the first ever Coutts London Jewellery Week, Unit 2 Gallery on Whitechapel High Street will be showcasing the best graduate Jewellery and Silversmithing work.

Among the many pieces at the 2008 Summer Show, visitors will see the one of first grand pianos built in the UK for over fifty years which was constructed by a team of musical instruments students; an art installation where hundreds of rolls of sellotape are slowly unravelling at their own pace to partition the room; innovative shelving inspired by the London Tube Map; a tapioca man melting into the foundation year studio floor, as well as more traditional work in furniture, silversmithing, jewellery, and upholstery and examples of furniture restoration. Films to be screened include a raft dramas and documentaries. One of them *Not Just A Game* a documentary about 'Airsoft,' a combat simulation support, even saw a student film maker shot at close range for the sake of his art.

The Summer Show is in reality a banner for a host of individual exhibitions. Work from the BA Graphic Design course is displayed in an exhibition themed DEMOCRACY, inspired by the 40th anniversary of the political turmoil of May 1968. This is more than a theme room as visitors will be encouraged to use polling booths

to vote on the show. The BA (Hons) Design Show takes the semi-colon for inspiration and a theme, their title *End of The line: New Opportunity* demonstrates that graduation is not the end of the line for students but part of a longer story as the students progress to their careers. On the third floor of central house *LM :1006:08.1* showcases the work of seventy fine art students in a broad range of media.

Michael Upton, Academic Leader for Recruitment and Marketing at JCAMD, has said that both sites are a hive of activity during this exciting event.

'I've been lucky enough to get a sneak preview of some of the show and the collection of work is consistently innovative and of high quality, and there are quite a few surprises in store- you never know what to expect when you walk into the next room.' Michael said.

'The diversity of the exhibition reflects the Department's role as a leading provider of creative visual, artefact and time-based media practice. The quality is testament to the hard work of students and staff. Expect to stretch your imagination- and our legs!'

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

Event Details:

Location:

The Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design
41-71 Commercial Road, London, E1 1LA
and Central House, 59-63 Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7PF

Opening times:

11 -13 June 2008:	10am to 8pm
14 June 2008:	10am to 5pm
15 June 2008:	10am to 4pm

For further information

Visit: www.londonmet.ac.uk/jcamd

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Images (available in high resolution on request)



TUBE MAP SHELVING

Third year BA Furniture and Product Design student Amos Field Read gives new form and function to Harry Beck's celebrated design classic, the London Underground Map. The iconic design has found a new life as a unique, stylish and versatile storage solution for the hallways of compact metropolitan homes.



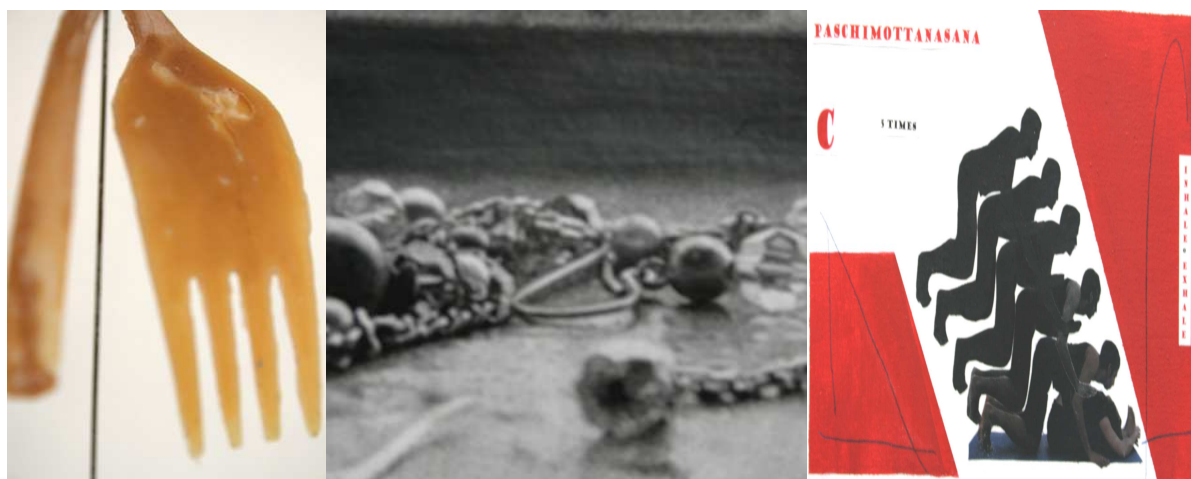
Untitled, Sellotape, 2008

Paul Good, graduating from BA (Hons) Fine Art, has used hundreds of rolls of stick tape to create a living installation where the tape gradually unravels under the fluorescent lights of the gallery, taking on a life of it's own and dividing the space as it extends itself.

The Foundation Show

Work by students on the Foundation Year is diverse, exciting and often surreal. In fact it is a show in its own right. Laura Ter Kuile's Dali-esque latex cutlery floats and melts, while Lejun Villojane's tapioca man appears to disintegrate onto the studio floor. Rachel Boston believes her 'steam punk' jewellery will be the next big thing, while Leone Greene glamorises household cleaning products. The intricate photo-realistic drawings by Jemma Bryan and Nikola Jandra's vibrant prints are also eye-catching elements of this year's show.

(See images below)



Restored to former glory

The Summer Show is about more than the 'new'. Restoration and Conservation and Furniture Restoration students will be showing the fruits of many hours in the studios and laboratories preserving and restoring artefacts to their former glory. Anita Garner has restored a stool from 1720 (pictured) using 18th century Techniques and faced the difficult dilemma of removing gilding added in about 1820. Clive Flower has restored a 19th Century Chinese export lacquer cabinet, which was severely cracked.



Grand Piano Team

A strong team of four students from the Musical Instruments course have built a Grand Piano in one year, smashing the two-year record set by previous students. Gideon Elliott, Julie Bell, and Anne Burton who are studying BA Musical Instruments, and Simon Bird studying a Foundation Degree in Musical instruments have learned the instrument inside out and all have full time positions as technicians and tuners to enter after they complete the course.



Angus Simpson, Cabinet Maker

Angus Simpson has combined traditional and modern materials (lacquered MDf and Walnut) to create his final piece, a modern cabinet. Angus, who works for a cabinet maker in Acton but plans to set up his own business said “I’ve done something that’s commercially viable as well as challenging. Last year my finished piece was snapped up by a shop on the Kings Road so I have designed with one eye on the marketplace.” He has yet to name the piece although he says “my girlfriend is putting pressure on me to name it after her!”

Democracy

The work on display in *Democracy!* Consists of extracts and selections from the 3rd Year BA Hons Graphic Design Final Major Project -where students are encouraged to write, research and carry out their own brief in order to create a 'significant body of work'. The work relates, directly or indirectly, to aspects of democracy- the right to individual expression. With recent 'non'-elections, the London Mayoral elections, the situation in Zimbabwe, the long-running battle for the Democratic nomination in the USA and pertinently, with the 40th anniversary of May '68 - the issue of democracy seems particularly prominent this year. Collectively then, these projects constitute a snapshot of the democratic body politic, a visual/textual/sonic snapshot of the state of "democracy" and democratic debate. Visitors can exercise their own democratic right to comment freely with a 'polling card- ballot-box' system in place.



Not Just a Game Film student suffers for his art

Graduating Film maker Matt Hastings explains how he suffered for his art: "We decided to make a documentary on Airsoft, an activity similar to paintball. To make an interesting film and to get them to open up to us we had to get close to the players. I ended up being shot with a grenade that fired 180 plastic ball bearings that fly at 328 feet per second. Needless to say it hurt like hell! In effect though it was a sort of

an initiation process. After that, the three players opened up to the crew, which was great for the film. The shot actually appears in the final cut of the film because it was pivotal to the process."

Matt spent many editing the film and solving issues with structure and narrative, to excellent effect.

-About JCAMD-

The Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design is located within a vibrant community of galleries, designers, artists, museums and cultural industries that surround the City campus.

The staff are well known and respected within their specialist areas and our record is one of the strongest in the sector, with art and design scoring an excellent 23 out of 24 in the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) subject review.

The 'Cass' is situated on the East London City fringe, a vibrant area recognised as a centre of excellence for both art and design. This unique environment of commerce, art galleries and design workshops exposes our students to the highest levels of professional practice.

We offer a wide range of courses from Foundation Year and degree level to taught masters and research. We received 'excellent' ratings of 23 out of 24 in the most recent Art and Design subject reviews by the QAA, who assess all UK universities.