

Gallery hosts Absolutely Everything

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THE TAAG Gallery this week is hosting a refreshing and very different exhibition of cutting edge contemporary art. For the fourth year in a row this group of artists, formed around a nucleus of ex-students from Plymouth and Exeter art colleges, are showing their most recent and exciting work. There are eight artists exhibiting this year in Gallery Number One. Newcomers include Cress de la Fosse, from Plymouth College of Art and now studying for an MA at Exeter, and David Harbott from the Smooth Space art practice.

David's most recent project is 'BGS350' – drawing birds endangered by global warming in public places around South Devon, with the help of children and passers-by. In this exhibition he is starting a new project drawing people's kitchens and, as the project develops, will be sharing and exchanging the illustrations via a dedicated website.

Cress de la Fosse often does performance work but in this exhibition is showing 'Sane in Insane Places', which is part of an exploration of institutionalisation and mental health.

Steve Brown and Angela Hilton are reprising installations from their Plymouth College of Art graduation shows. Steve's is about consumption and the consequences of our actions or inac-



CUTTING EDGE: Steve Brown working on his scrapbook.

tion, while Angela's work 'explores the possibilities of alchemy' by fusing metal with pomegranates.

Katie Scott Hamilton is back with the group and is showing a

typical work, using stitchwork and repetition, from the 'One Year Later' group exhibition in Plymouth earlier this year.

Karen Tarr has been busy designing a website for the singer Sally Barker, but for this exhibition she is showing her non-digital skills with an artist book which explores the role of women in science. Meanwhile, Whitney-Anne Baker is exhibiting some of her challenging textile creations and examples of the inventive small artist books that she does so well.

Finally, Clare Heaton, whose wool feltwork was widely admired last year, is using latex to evoke living matter: 'Like an old skin, worn, wrinkled, decaying and dying, I tack and stitch the body together to heal, mend and hold it together,' she says.

Between the artists there is a wide diversity of practice. 'In part, that is why we called the show Absolutely Everything,' says Steve Brown. 'But we also wanted a positive title for these uncertain times – something which says that there is nothing wrong with aiming high.' Absolutely – the high ground in art is exactly what Steve and his team consistently achieve. The exhibition takes place in TAAG Gallery number one from tomorrow to November 3 and is open every day from 10am to 5pm.