Caught between two versions of Middle England, the boy and vice versa. Version two of this walk will take the walls of Exeter into a rodeo corral. City dignitaries...
Tariq Alvi and Michael Curran
with Jeremy Akerman, Gail Burton, Michele Dendy, Ana Fonseca, Marc Hublan, Serena Korda, Geoffrey Preston, Alex Schady, Show & Tell and others

Tariq Alvi and Michael Curran present an installation that explores the underbelly of Middle England, with guest contributions by artists and friends.

Michael Curran also presents a new film, I can c my way home, as a two screen video installation that contrasts Killerton House, a thriving National Trust property near Exeter, and the neighbouring Pottishome House, a ruin fast falling into a state of utter dilapidation. Each space defines and defies the other – decay and dereliction counter-pointing order and upkeep.

One screen shows the<button> If you would like to take part in Your Number’s Up or the Great Wall of China please contact Hannah Reeves on 01392 431786 </button>

INTROSPECT
Glodélé Aijiboé Bamgboyé

Introspect (2003) contrasts Western perceptions of Africa with images of the day-to-day experience of living in Nigeria. As part of his Exeter-based project, Bamgboyé has re-edited archive film footage donated by local residents, who have lived both in Devon and Nigeria. He also presents Unmasking, 3... a new digital commission, alongside the World Cultures display of a boxer’s head.

HABITAT
21-22 Queen Street, tel. 01392 254000 www.habitat.net

WHEN IN ROME II
Daniel Baker, SukI Chan, Nooshin Forhad, Amanda Francis, Raimi Gbadamosi, Takafumi Homma, Ronee Hui, Paul Jones, Silia Katung, Margareta Kern, Maria Meade, Agnes Poltevin-Navarre, Harold Offeh, Paul O’Kane, Yewande Okuleye, Raymond Yap

When in Rome is an ongoing project, created by Raimi Gbadamosi and Amanda Francis, which aims to function as a critical platform for ‘culturally diverse’ artists to consider their practice and profession. When in Rome II is presented as part of the Homeland project, showing new works in the context of Habitat, Exeter, addressing issues of modernism and the supposed universality of form. There is also a project book, published to accompany the exhibition with new page works by each of the artists showing at Habitat.

SPACEX GALLERY
45 Preston Street, tel. 01392 431786 (continues until 12 June 2004)

THE BLUE BOY GIFT SHOP
22-24 Princesshay, tel. 01392 258013 www.blueboygifts.co.uk

Grayson Perry

Turner Prize-winner, Perry presents a pot entitled Storm Brewing (2002), in the context of the Blue Boy Gift Shop, a specialist china and glass retailer. Perry’s work combines the traditions of fine and decorative arts with compelling personal and social themes, in an uncompromising investigation of the cultural stereotypes which lie at the heart of Middle England.

EAST TO WEST

45 Princesshay, tel. 01392 41555

Ansuman Biswas & Jen Finer

In the film Zero Genre (2001), presented in the window of East to West (which sells hand crafted Indonesian furniture and gifts), Biswas and Finer fly in zero gravity conditions, dressed as geeks, at the Unit Gagarin Cosmonauts Training Facility in Star City, Moscow. They dance, levitate, and invert, for the very first time in the West, the mythical Flying Carpet.

12, 20 & 22 PARIS STREET

Caroline Bergvall

Your Number’s Up Do you have a favourite number? Do you avoid travelling on certain dates? What does zero mean? In more ways than 1, numbers shape the ways we relate to the world. Poet and site-artist Bergvall will work for 3 days (13 - 15 May) in the old betting shop, with sound duo Liminal, to record your answers to questionnaires, numerical games and symbolic patterns. These soundings will be incorporated into a nocturnal public event in Exeter this Autumn.

Ansuman Biswas

Season, a new four-screen video installation, is part of a series of works exploring the multiple links between Bengal and Devon, and between past and future, including footage from the South West Film and Television Archive and autobiographical material from India.

Jyll Bradley

Fragrant, Exeter is a site-specific floral installation made in collaboration with Janet Phare, a flower arranger from the Exeter Cathedral. Fragrant, Exeter draws upon the traditions of English church flower arranging, a popular ‘art of the everyday’, but created within the confines of a city centre shop. The installation combines local Devon foliage with ‘exotic’ orchids and anthuriums, to create a stunning hybrid arrangement.

Lisa Cheung

The Great Wall of China is a participatory installation that attempts to record the faces of Middle England. A broad range of Exeter citizens, including passers-by, are invited to have their photographic taken for the collection in the Portrait Studio (open 17 April – 1 May). These portraits will then be transferred onto a set of commemorative plates that celebrate the people that make up Exeter’s changing and vibrant society. The plates will eventually make up The Great Wall of China, to be exhibited in the Autumn.

Guillermo Gómez-Peña

Ethno-Techno: Los Video Graffiti (2004) consists of approximately 30 video graffiti’s, or short performance video segments, by celebrated Latin-American artist Gómez-Peña and the performance group La Pocha Nostra. They range in length from thirty seconds to three minutes. This body of work deals with critical contemporary issues such as globalization, immigration, the politics of language, censorship, race relations, the commodification of ethnicity, Latinos in the media, and the digital divide.

Jenny Mellings

A new animated film, resulting from Mellings’ residency at Spacex as part of the Great Wall of China project, showing new works in the context of Habitat, Exeter, addressing issues of modernism and the supposed universality of form. There is also a project book, published to accompany the exhibition with new page works by each of the artists showing at Habitat.

Rosandl Nashashibi

Beck’s Futures-winner, Nashashibi presents The States of Things (2000), a frenzied black and white film transferred to DVD, in which a Salvation Army jumble sale at Maryhill in Glasgow is set to the sound track of an old Egyptian love song by Um Kolthoum, an ‘exotic’ orchids and anthuriums, to create a stunning hybrid arrangement.

Beck’s Futures-winner, Nashashibi presents

The Quack Project

An interactive CD-ROM which asks the question: “Do ducks quack in the same way all over the world?” Featuring the voices of nursery children from over 20 London schools, making animal noises in a wide range of languages that reflect the capital’s cultural diversity. These sounds mingle with a new work, Cockney and Cornish Dicks’s (Dialectic), featuring conversation between Cockney and Cornish ducks.