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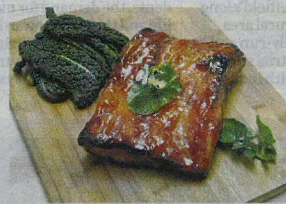
ONE TO WATCH

Artist reimagines the city's historic museum collections



Sheffield's chance to see world-class chamber group

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Fantastic recipes to help you bring home the bacon

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My Garden with the Littlewoods of Meadowhead

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Collectors' items seen in new light

VISUAL ARTS

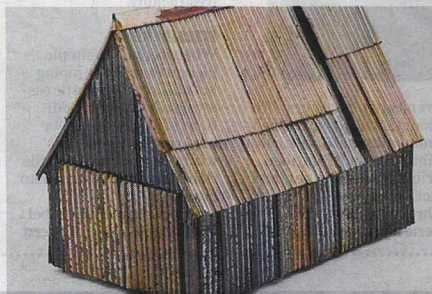
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In What Can Be Seen, an exhibition opening this week at the Millennium Gallery, internationally renowned artists Tim Etchells and Vlatka Horvat offer a wry reimagining of the city's historic museum collections.

The artists began by spending a week exploring the collections in archaeology, natural sciences, decorative art, visual art and social history, rummaging in boxes, drawers, racks, files and envelopes with the help of the curators.

What Can Be Seen presents a wealth of objects and images, many of which have not been on public display for more than 30 years or sometimes never.

There's a line-up of pocket watches, biological specimens and Egyptian artefacts, as well as weather data charts, early 20th century puppets, and survey photographs for the planned site of the M1 from the Sixties.



Barn, by Evangeline Long from Enamoured exhibition at Butcher Works



'We were impressed by the methodical nature of all this work'

Tim Etchells

In one large cluttered display case you can find a duck-billed platypus ("apparently the very first exhibit as it is catalogued as A1"). The unexpected groupings of objects are not on the basis of subject matter but things like shape, colour, texture or the material they are made from, explains Horvat.

And so a pufferfish (natural history) sits next to a toast rack (decorative arts) next to a knuckleduster (social history) because they have roughly the same shape.

The artists were keen to present items as they appeared in store so there are a



Vlatka Horvat adjusts display cabinet containing a wealth of objects

number of sculptural figures standing in a crate as though imprisoned.

On a wall are a set of empty picture frames from which the paintings have been removed for conservation and covered in polythene.

Etchells and Horvat continually highlight the act of care, observation and study by those involved in recording, understanding and illuminating the world we live in.

"We were impressed by the methodical nature of all this work," observes Etchells.

"It's a portrait of an institution but also gives glimpses

of the lives of the people who worked here," adds Horvat.

This comes out in their own pieces in the exhibition, two new series of photographic behind-the-scenes images entitled No Contextual Information and Card Index (Details) which foreground the "hidden" processes and systems used by the institution and its curators.

Tim Etchells is an artist and a writer based in London and Sheffield.

The artistic director of the Sheffield-based international performance group Forced Entertainment has also worked on collabora-

tions with a range of visual artists, choreographers and photographers.

Croatian-born Vlatka Horvat is an artist based in London who works in sculpture, installation, drawing, performance and photography.

What Can Be Seen is the first large-scale museum-based collaboration by the partners following two video works shown as part of Art Sheffield 2008.

They have also created and performed together in several live performance pieces and frequently act as sounding boards for one



Tim Etchells and Vlatka Horvat at the Millennium Gallery

another in their individual practices.

What Can Be Seen forms part of Making Ways, a new programme of exhibitions, residencies and events funded by Arts Council England, taking place over the next three years, which will showcase, celebrate and develop the exceptional contemporary visual art produced in Sheffield.

Tim Etchells & Vlatka Horvat: What Can Be Seen continues at the Millennium Gallery until May 7.

● Sheffield has the distinction of being one of four host venues for a nationally

prestigious new exhibition of cutting-edge enamelling art and craft.

From fine enamel on precious metals in traditional techniques such as basse-taille, champlevé and cloisonné, to experimental wet-process on copper and steel, via high-firing, graffiti, stencilling and decals, Enamoured will show the wide range of styles in current practice from more than 50 artists, including leading contemporary practitioners such as Phil Barnes, Evangeline Long and Jeanne Crosse.

It is on view at Butcher Works Gallery, Arundel

Street, from February 14, to March 10, Mondays to Saturdays, 10am to 3pm and there will also be public workshops.

● An exhibition opening today at Exchange Place Studios called The Court of Love is themed like a medieval court reflecting the first occurrence of Valentine's Day which featured a feast, poetry competitions and jousting.

Up to 15 artists from around the UK provide their individual interpretation of Valentine's Day through painting, collage, performances, perfumery, sculpture and photography:

The Court of Love has also involved a poetry competition and successful entries will be on display.

It will be on view at Exchange Place Studios, from February 9-18, 11am-4pm.

On Friday from 6pm-8pm there will be a launch event with many of the artists and poets on hand and a performance from artists Pink and Gray. There will also be an event on Valentine's Day itself, February 14, 6pm-9pm which will include performances and poetry readings and the announcement of the winner of the poetry competition.