

Exhibitions

# New shows

## Jenny Holzer

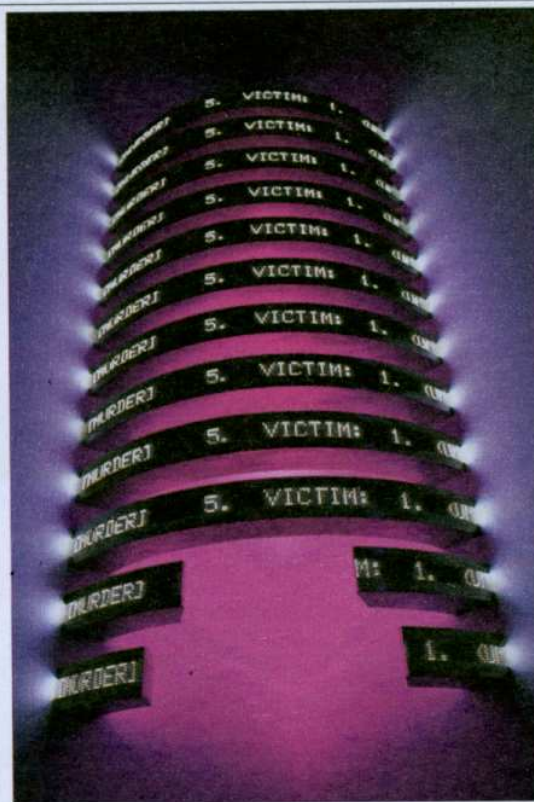
The Baltic in Gateshead gives over its two biggest galleries to the work, including *Thorax (right)*, of the American conceptual artist Jenny Holzer. Born in 1950, she has in the course of her 40-year career moved from making abstract paintings to producing text-based works. And it is these pieces for which she has become most highly acclaimed. Her thought-provoking texts, displayed and distributed on fly posters, T-shirts, bronze plaques, condoms and even, in 1982, on an LED billboard in New York's Times Square, have made her a familiar avant-garde figure. She has expanded her practice to incorporate poetry by other people and, since 2004, has made the inclusion of government documents central to her work.

Any visitors to the Baltic will be confronted by surprising, sometimes disconcerting, anonymous messages. "Lack of charisma can be fatal" is the sort of aphoristic message that, in the past, she has produced. Other examples include "abuse of power comes as no surprise" and "sloppy thinking gets worse over time". What at first encounter might not sound that striking begins to echo and resonate in the mind, challenging the reader to consider the world from alternative angles, to see new political perspectives and social possibilities.

**Rachel Campbell-Johnston**

BALTIC, Gateshead ([balticmill.com](http://balticmill.com) 0191-478 1810), from Fri, until May 16, free

Like this? Try **A Certain Distance, Endless Light** by Felix Gonzalez-Torres and William McKeown at **mima**



### Critic's choice

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

#### 1 Facing East

Paintings and sculptures by artists including Bharti Kher, Takashi Murakami and Ravinder Reddy. *Manchester Art Gallery* ([manchesterartgallery.org](http://manchesterartgallery.org) 0161-235 8888), until April 11, free

#### 2 Bryndis Snaebjörnsdóttir & Mark Wilson: Nanoq

A surprisingly resonant show of photographs of stuffed polar bears, alongside stories of how they were captured and killed. *The Manchester Museum* ([museum.man.ac.uk](http://museum.man.ac.uk) 0161-275 2634), until July 11, free

#### 3 The Gathering

Paintings, sculptures and video works by artists including Gilbert and George, Mark Wallinger, John Frankland and David Batchelor. *Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield* ([ysp.co.uk](http://ysp.co.uk) 01924 832631), from Fri, until April 18, free

#### 4 Richard Cannon

A photographic portrait exhibition celebrating Britain's young pioneers in the fields of science, engineering, mathematics and technology. *W5, Odyssey Arena, Belfast* ([w5online.co.uk](http://w5online.co.uk) 028-9046 7700), until March 7, free

#### 5 Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories

Artefacts including sacred and royal objects, fossils and items of natural wonder. *National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh* ([nms.ac.uk](http://nms.ac.uk) 0131-225 7534), continuing, free

#### The Gathering: Building the Arts Council Collection 1973-2009

An exhibition exploring how and why some of the great highlights of the Arts Council Collection have been acquired.

The show includes recent painting, sculpture and video by Gilbert and George, Mark Wallinger, Tony Cragg, Rebecca Warren, Peter Doig and Martin Creed, as well as installations by John Frankland and David Batchelor. *Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield* ([ysp.co.uk](http://ysp.co.uk) 01924 832631), from Fri, until April 18, free

#### Jordan Baseman: The Most Powerful Weapon in this World

Three film works are centred around interviews that question the authenticity of documentary and narrative, and explore human belief systems. Baseman uses

classic film techniques such as voiceover, archive footage and stop-frame animation to create a disconnect between the personal stories told by his narrators and the images on screen, making the viewer question how an identity is constructed.

In *Inside Man*, a gangster tells of his life of crime, a source of pride and shame. The activist Alan Wakeman takes a narrated journey through late-night

Soho in *Nasty Piece of Stuff*, while in *Joy on Toast* the octogenarian botanical explorer Sheila Collette describes her experiences collecting specimens for the British Museum and Kew Gardens in London and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.

BALTIC, Gateshead ([balticmill.com](http://balticmill.com) 0191-478 1810), until May 9, free

#### Game on: The Faile Bast Deluxx Fluxx Arcade show

#### Worth the Trip: The Faile Bast Deluxx Fluxx Arcade

A collaboration between Faile, the Brooklyn-based duo acknowledged as pioneers in street art, and Bast, another elusive street art figure (his very existence has occasionally been disputed), this exuberant show is inspired by the amusement arcades that were haunted by the youth of the 1980s.

Faile and Bast have created a completely immersive installation with reconditioned arcade machines – fans can buy tokens, either to play the games or to take home in the hope that they will become collector's items. Around the corner, the gallery's Rathbone Place space will show a 10-year retrospective of Faile's work. *Lazarides and Lazarides Rathbone, London W1* ([lazinc.com](http://lazinc.com) 020-7636 5443), until March 27, free

**Nancy Durrant**

