

The Guide

Focus on creation of a collection

SEMINAL moments in the creation of the UK's largest collection of art will be explored at a new exhibition opening at Yorkshire Sculpture Park this week.

Young curator Robert Dingle won the chance to delve into the Arts Council collection to produce *The Gathering*, an exhibition which looks at how a number of key works came to enter the collection over the last 36 years.

And it was a tough task, with more than 7,500 pieces of art to choose from.

The Gathering is the first exhibition to have stemmed from Select.ac, a new scheme launched by the Arts Council Collection in 2008, which gives post-graduates the opportunity to create an exhibition by allowing access to the vast amount of art in the collection.

Robert, who only graduated this summer, picked 31 pieces by 21 artists, accompanied by historical texts and interviews that tell each

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work's story.

The Gathering features a range of artists including David Bachelor, Peter Doig and Jane Simpson, and each piece has been carefully selected to reflect the narrative of entering into the collection.

Robert, 28, said: "Art comes to be part of the collection through many different ways; they can be bought, donated or have entered through sponsorship and are each tied to their own narrative. I wanted to show the history of why works entered the collection."

Robert has spent the past 12 months choosing pieces to fit into the idea and chose to exhibit the final collect at YSP because of its strong links with the Arts Council.

And even individual pieces were chosen with the rolling landscape of the West Bretton park in mind.

Newborn Lamb by Mark Neville is strategi-



ELEVATING ART: Robert Dingle with John Frankland's *You Can't Touch This*, a gold covered lift which has people confused with the real thing. w1121a008

cally positioned in the Longside Gallery next to the large windows that look out onto the hills behind the park which are home to many lambs.

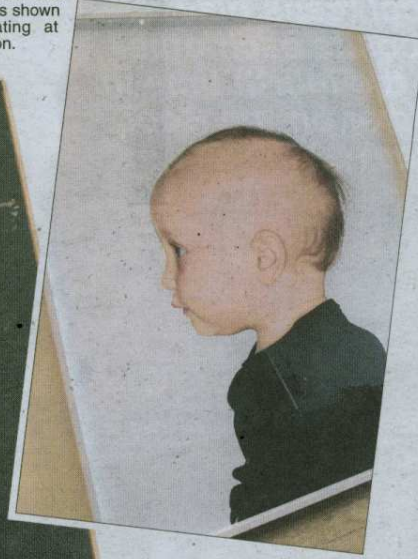
Caroline Douglas, head of the Arts Council Collection, who assisted Robert with his exhibition said: "We are always looking for ways to open up the collection and it struck me that we didn't have enough links with art colleges and needed to find a way to do this. So we came up with Select.ac. Learning by doing is the best way to nurture the next generation of curators."

Robert's inspiration came from one particular piece of art which was shown to him while studying Curating at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Robert said: "Caroline came in to talk to us about the opportunity of Select.ac and brought a portrait created by Catherine Yass, featuring members of the 1994 selection committee of the Arts Council."

"It inspired me to think about how each piece of work can be traced back to a selector, select committee or particular circumstance and I wanted to create an exhibition based on these decisions."

The Gathering is being held at Longside Gallery until April 18. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.ysp.co.uk.



STORY TELLING: Dingle's picks were chosen with a narrative for the entire collection in mind. Pictured (above) is Bettina Von Zwehl's No3. w1121c008

INSPIRED: Curator Robert Dingle (left) with David Noonan's *Untitled*. w1121b008

Taste of summer

ARTIST Samantha Pattison O'Brien has created a taste of summer music festivals in a new exhibition on show at Bridge Arts in Castleford.

Catching the Vibe includes work ranging from oversized watercolour paintings to a willow angel sculpture which aim to bring a taste of music and creative festivals to the district.

Samantha, who lives in Pontefract, works as an artist, tutor and art psychotherapist and in 2007 set up Angel Gardens, a mobile creative space that attends festivals all over the country, including Glastonbury, The Magic Loungeabout in North Yorkshire and Solfest in Cumbria.

Samantha's fairy and flower-painted caravan, which she takes to festivals with her, will also be

squeezed into Bridge Arts as part of the exhibition, which runs at the Sagar Street gallery until April 1.

The gallery is open from 10am to 3pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 10am to noon on Wednesday.

For more details, call 01977 556741.