

PRESS RELEASE

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"the ultimate answer to the ultimate question"

www.sarahsparkes.com/42

curated by Sarah Sparkes

Three Colts Gallery, 2nd Flr, Greenheath Bus Centre, Three Colts Lane, Bethnal Green, E2 6JB

PV 3rd Nov 6.30pm – 9.00pm Runs 4 – 26 Nov, Fri + Sat + Sun, 12 – 6 or by appoint

In Douglas Adams' book, 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy', a computer is made to find the ultimate answer to the ultimate question. After billions of years it comes up with **42**, a meaningless answer, which takes on a puzzling significance, and leads inevitably to the search for another question.

Finding truths in the incomprehensible, and discovering questions whilst seeking solutions, is a process the **42** artists in the exhibition find themselves engaged with, as they make work in response to the ultimate question.

Combining flat pack technology with Islamic geometry, **Ami Clarke's** large MDF structure is a monolithic folly dedicated to human fallibility. **Phill Wilson-Perkins** audio piece, made with help from **Sarah Sparkes** and **Julian Wakeling**, features a strangely distorted voice. Sometimes the words are decipherable, but often they seem to be spoken in an alien or foreign tongue, barely human. The feeling conveyed from behind the mysterious words is that a fundamental truth will be revealed, if one could only hear it. **Harry Pye** is contributing 42 passport sized images of people he is glad he met. If you believe a man is judged on the company he keeps then Harry's contribution is in some way a self-portrait. **Jennifer Merrell's** painting 'Green Bride', raises the question, is finding ones other half and living happily ever after the answer to everything? **Robert Currie's** triptych uses 42 minutes of video tape in each meticulous construction. **Jennifer Baumeister's** film features two screens, one showing the artists head wired up to an EEG machine, the other showing the output as she thinks about 'what is the meaning of life'. **Marq Kearey's** drawing is a mystifying interpretation of Gauguin's painting, 'Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?' But are we ready to interpret it, and fully understand Marq's delicate re-work? **Leila Miller's** photograph gives us a psychological insight into the fear of ageing and wondering just where you are heading. **Sarah Sparkes** has made an infinite space in a box and a painting about a path that you may or may not have the curiosity to follow. **Pete Mountford** uses maps and grid co-ordinates in his work. 'Martivili' depicts a location on this planet where all the grid references are 42. Elsewhere, a philosophical statement, which appears to be handwritten on a steamed up bathroom mirror is **Stevie Deas's** contribution. The message could be viewed as an answer to dealing with those times when one feels disaffected with life. In **John Workman's** little glass-painting a boyish figure in 18 century clothes and wig, full of naive confidence, is explaining or negotiating something with a sinister cloaked figure. **David Leapman** has made a painting of his 'Petal Thinkers', which are images "equipped to absorb information with special multi-sensory powers". They offer the viewer a respite from the anxiety caused by worrying about the meaning of life the universe and everything. 'Mexican Moon' is intimate and mysterious painting by **John McLeod**. **Adrian Galpin's** painting, "Planet Potato Disease" presents the viewer with a visual conundrum, is this a common root vegetable or a large land mass drifting in space. **John Dale** is a rock climber and has made a 'topo', which shows an imaginary climbing route. **Helen Barff's** 'buoy' is covered in a layer of felt, which renders the object both tactile and blind. It appears both abstract and weightless, moving between present and absent. It is redundant and dislocated. **Beverley Daniels** has made mono prints showing a hapless whale falling through space. **Trafford Parson's** flicker books have 42 pages and show a fly mutating into Godzilla. **Fiona Campbell** has collected material from clothes she has made or worn over her 42 years

and transformed them into 42 bunting flags. A photograph from the USA showing 42 everyday objects was posted to the gallery by **Stella Wilkins**.

In the work 'The Harmony of The Bee' by **Rowland Smith**, a beautiful insect which apparently defies the laws of physics, is juxtaposed with the archetypal beauty of geometric forms which represent the ideal of underlying order in the universe. **Chloe Brigg's** work, 'the obscene' gives an unsettling sense of both intrusion and exclusion. **Steve Rushton** works with remnants of life and their various forms. If you e-mail **Aileen Neal** at aileenneal@hotmail.com she will send you 42 things that you never knew about Sarah Sparkes. **Geraldine Swayne** says of her painting 'Hollywood 1942, 'If you let it, the unconscious mind usually reminds you what's bothering you deep down". **Lee Maelzer** paints, 'the things we construct as they are disrupted, engulfed or fall into chaos'. **Matthew Stadling** has made a 'close-up' painting of the ear of a fetus inside the womb. The dynamic geometry in **Simon Neville's** collage incorporates shapes in the quantities of 4 and 2. **Angela Gill** has made a painting about a go-between, one who acts as an intermediary or messenger between two sides. A book on how to survive life has been crafted by **Sarah Newson**. **D J Roberts** has made a painting of a suburban house, will it be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass? What does **Edward Ward** want for his 42nd birthday? The answer is in his drawing. 'Us' By **Michael Sinclair** is a large carving of a gateway or bridge, on which lines of cars cross in the night. **Sean O'Connor** has made an intriguing cave painting. An woman, lost in thought, walking down a London street, has been captured in a drawing by **Jim Dunkley**. A 42 frame animation of a 42 year old singer, has been hand drawn by Sarah Doyle. **Jennifer Talbot** has made a chalk drawing on the gallery floor is a copy of the chimney sweeps drawing from the film, 'Mary Poppins' Hanging above the bar is a symbol of good luck, made by **Diana Percival**.

The **42** are:

Sarah Sparkes, Helen Barff, Marq Kearey, John Dale, David Leapman, Harry Pye, Ami Clarke, Robert Currie, Beverley Daniels, Stevie Deas, Phill Wilson-Perkin, Angela Gill, Bob Read, D J Roberts, Jim Dunkley, Trafford Parsons, Jennifer Baumeister, Rowland Smith, Leila Miller, Lee Maelzer, Steve Rushton, Edward Ward, John Mcleod, Diana Percival, Adrian Galpin, Jennifer Merrell, Pete Mountford, Geraldine Swayne, Fiona Campbell, Sarah Newson, Libby Shearon, Simon Neville, Matthew Stradling, Chloe Briggs, Sarah Doyle, Julian Wakeling, Sean O'Connor, Aileen Neal, John Workman, Jennifer Talbot, Michael Sinclair, Stella Wilkins