

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.

In **Angela Gill's** painting a little figure emerges from the dappled painted surface, a go-between, which is the artists attempt to capture a feelings that they can't understand – perhaps spiritual communication.

Marq Kearey's drawings are 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?

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.

Sarah Sparkes work, 'you are here' is built a coffin built to fit the artist, a peep hole in the end allows the individual to glimpse a tunnel of light receding into infinity.

Chloe Brigg's work, 'the obscene' gives an unsettling sense of both intrusion and exclusion.

Jennifer Talbot has made a chalk drawing on the gallery floor it is a copy of the chimney sweeps drawing from the film, 'Mary Poppins' which was firsts screened 42 years ago.

A philosophical statement, which appears to be handwritten on a steamed up bathroom mirror is **Stevie Deas's** contribution.

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. The message could be viewed as an answer to dealing with those times when one feels disaffected with life.

Libby Shearon's paintng 'state of man' shows a pitiful figure, stripped of dignity and is a grim reminder of mans inhumanity to man.

Over the bar, **Diana Percival**, has combined an image of a rainbow, which refracts at 42 degrees, with other symbols of increase and harvest.

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.

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.

'Mexican Moon' is intimate and mysterious painting by **John McLeod**.

Matthew Stadling painting has made a 'close-up' painting of the ear of a fetus inside the womb, perhaps a reference to another famous sci fi story?

Lee Maelzer has painted the two extreme ends of the scale of poverty and wealth and renders both in a way that evokes a sense of chaos and falling into ruin.

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 dynamic geometry in **Simon Neville's** collage incorporates shapes in the quantities of 4 and 2.

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.

'Us' By **Michael Sinclair** is a large carving of a gateway or bridge, on which lines of cars cross in the night. 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.

Situated on the floor of the 'Front Room' is **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'. Also, **Robert Currie's** triptych, which uses 42 minutes of video tape in each meticulous construction.

Jennifer Merrell's assemblage of 42 brides and grooms, raises the question, is finding ones other half and living happily ever after the answer to everything?

A woman, lost in thought, walking down a London street, has been captured in a drawing by **Jim Dunkley**.

D J Roberts has made a painting of a suburban house, will it be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass?

Geraldine Swayne says of her painting 'Hollywood 1942, 'If you let it, the unconscious mind usually reminds you what's bothering you deep down".

Leila Miller's photograph gives us a psychological insight into the fear of ageing and wondering just where you are heading.

A 42 frame animation of a 42 year old singer, has been hand drawn by **Sarah Doyle**.

Sean O'Connor has made an intriguing cave painting.

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.

Bob Reads seascape, created with pastels and water colours, could also depict the surface of an alien planet.

John Dale is a rock climber and has made a 'topo', which shows an imaginary climbing route, in which the climber will encounter some hidden messages.

'Northern Girl' by **Julian Wakeling**, allows the viewer to also listen to the lyrics of song composed and performed by the artist. The piece makes reference to Elvis, who died when he was 42.

Above Julian's piece is a photograph, sent from the USA, by **Stella Wilkins**. It shows 42 objects from her everyday life.

What does **Edward Ward** want for his 42nd birthday? The answer is in his drawing.

Steve Rushton works with remnants of life and their various forms.

Below, a hapless whale is depicted as it falls through space. These monoprints were made by **Beverley Daniels**.

On the table, **Trafford Parson's** flicker books have 42 pages and show a fly mutating into Godzilla. Also A book on how to survive life has been crafted by **Sarah Newson**.

Combining flat pack technology with Islamic geometry, **Ami Clarke's** large MDF structure is a monolithic folly dedicated to human fallibility.

Over head, **Fiona Campbell** has collected material from clothes she has made or worn over her 42 years and transformed them into 42 bunting flags.

If you e-mail **Aileen Neal** at aileenneal@hotmail.com she will send you 42 things that you never knew about sarah Sparkes.

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