

Buzzwords is no more... long live the Word Foundation. Cleveland Arts has received a grant of £64,000 from the Northern Rock Foundation for three years to enable Cleveland Arts to continue its literature development programme. As a result Buzzwords will be relaunched as The Word Foundation.

This Is Billingham. This Is Not Billingham

A new arts partnership has been awarded £12,900 by the DfEE Partners In Study Support Scheme to run a pilot after hours learning programme at Pentland Primary School in Billingham. Cleveland Arts, Stockton's Local Education Authority, Stockton & Billingham College of F.E. and the Adult Education Family Learning Unit will be co-ordinating the cross artform project which explores the contrasting views, attitudes, memories and representations of Billingham, past and present. Pupils from Pentland Primary School and Northfield Comprehensive will work with a writer, a digital artist and a visual artist, along with volunteers from the college and the local community. There will be in school taster sessions, after school workshops as well as an Autumn School during the half term break. Participants will collect video footage, still photography, produce paintings, drawings, poetry, stories, myths, and short pieces of social documentary, some sessions will involve interviewing the family learning groups and other people from the Billingham area. Other sessions will involve digital manipulation, time lapse photography, video editing and creating textual landscapes from their poetry paintings. David Campbell, Headteacher at Pentland Primary said, "The grant from the DfEE will greatly help the school's major focus of raising standards, particularly in Writing. The project's connections to other agencies will give the area and the community an injection of the creative arts, reinforcing creativity as

a part of everyday life." The project will culminate in a short film and static displays of words and images that will be showcased in Spring 2001 at Billingham Community Centre. "This is a wonderful opportunity to bring different art forms together into an integrated programme of creative learning," said Bob Beagrie, Literature Development Worker at Cleveland Arts, "I'm looking forward to seeing the children's ideas develop from raw notes and observational sketches to composed pieces of writing and artwork, then turned into animated sequences and video footage. New digital media, blue screening and morphing techniques allow the children to place moving images of themselves inside their own paintings, to rewrite the maps of Billingham and restructure the landscape around the school." Throughout the project the children will be carrying out interviews on oral and family history, odd tales and personal memories of the town. Anyone with a tale to tell of life in Billingham, who would like to contribute to the project should contact Bob Beagrie at Cleveland Arts.



Words From The Horse's Mouth

A One-Off Conference on Writing and Publishing - 19 July 2000
Cleveland Arts and the

University of Leeds, with support from Northern Arts combined forces to offer writers in Teesside a unique opportunity to meet and discuss writing and publishing with a range of mainstream and small press publishers. The conference formed one day of the annual Cleveland Creative Writing Summer School but is open to the general public. It was an intensive day combining presentations and specialist workshops led by commissioning editors and publishers' readers. Their brief was to outline the selection procedures their publishing house operate, talk people through the practicalities of submitting manuscripts, answer burning questions about the publishing industry and give insider knowledge about how writers could improve their chances of acceptance.

Here local writer Nick Fay gives his opinion of the day: "As a writer, recently resigned from my job and trying to make a career as a novelist, the day was manna from Heaven. It is just a shame that it was only one day. Up here in the isolated North we are very cut off from the hubbub of publishing and any opportunities which link us to the publishing world are vital nourishment. Especially if they are as well ran, represented and organised as 'From The Horse's Mouth.'

The six representatives covered a spectrum; from the smaller, and cult, publishing houses, to the much bigger, and mainstream, industry names. Each imparted nuggets which have helped me understand the industry and procedure of submission and hopefully improved my chances of success in the future. Reading the Artists and Writers Yearbook for the last 3 years has been a dry experience where this was living and breathing. The most uplifting theme was the down-to-earthness of each representative.

Bill Swainson, from Bloomsbury, talked eloquently and informatively about the protocol within a large publishing house. This diffused the toxic vacuum you can sometimes feel trapped in when the only feedback you get is terse rejections. Ron Heapy, from OUP, informed and entertained, drawing on years of experience, which clarified in no uncertain terms the financial constraints the publishing industry works under. After painting a picture in realistic grey hues and not the hopeful, primary colours, the unpublished writer tends to see, he left with a shard of optimism – that is a new discovery which makes the publishing world go round. Having been brought down to earth I feel that I am wiser and girded for the uphill struggle awaiting.

Kevin Williamson of Rebel Inc (Canongate) was wonderful. Heaping common sense and streetwise advice on us – the sixteen would-be writers at his morning session – and answering a battery of questions which intruded on his lunch-break. His attitude was fresh and his insider knowledge about who to approach and how to get to speak to them will be with me for every submission package I send off (currently running at one or more per week).

The other representatives – who I could only listen to in the Q&A Session, because of time constraints – were excellent too. Overall the day has been the highlight of my summer, if not year. As with many of the other participants, writing means a lot to me. We all need to understand the industry we hope to belong to one day. Chances for a peek inside do not come along often. If any other similar events are to be arranged I would be first on the list."

Live Literature Events

Cleveland Arts organise readings throughout the year by leading writers. Look out for some big name attractions this coming Autumn in collaboration with the Verb Garden. Recent events promoted have included:

- Mudfog, Teesside's own small press has published 31 pamphlets and six full length collections since its launch in 1994 and has provided a valuable stepping stone for some writers to reach wider audiences. It plays an important role in keeping literature and publishing accessible to people on Teesside. To raise money for new ventures, to clear old stock and celebrate six years of Mudfog, Cleveland Arts and Mudfog organised a Marathon of Mudfog authors, past and present, reading new work and old in the biggest reading on Teesside, ever! The event took place at the Cornerhouse, Middlesbrough on June 5th.

- Cleveland Arts promoted three of the foremost poetic talents in the country – Helen Dunmore, UA Fanthorpe and Jo Shapcott at the Caffe Mango restaurant in Middlesbrough on June 10th who reading together in a special appearance in Middlesbrough. This was a unique opportunity to see three of the leading names in British poetry appearing on the same night and it ensured a packed audience.
- Also at Caffe Mango on July 29th, Moniza Alvi lead a reading of poetry and prose, with local writers who had taken part in the Ek Zuban creative writing and translation project. Ek Zuban was a pilot project exploring the potential of cross cultural collaboration among writers living across Teesside. Moniza Alvi also lead a Creative Writing Workshop at the International Centre, Abingdon Road, Middlesbrough during the day.



Artist marks Ayresome Park



A stimulating new public art project has been taking place on the site of Middlesbrough Football Club's old Ayresome Park ground. Commissioned by Wimpey Homes and Cleveland Arts and designed by internationally renowned artist Neville Gabie, it takes on board the change in the environment, the history of the site and the relationship to football. Neville has been working closely with the residents of the new housing estate, many of whom moved into their homes because of the significance of the site. Neville, who has exhibited widely throughout the UK and abroad, was selected for the commission from over 100 artists and has recently been working as the MOMART Artist in Residence at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool. He is particularly interested in the changing face of urban landscape, and has described the project as a sort of modern archaeology. The intention of the whole project has been to leave subtle traces or fragments – marks of the site's history that have not entirely been erased. These traces have been faint; such as a corner flag, a penalty spot, a phrase or song. Neville will be marking a number of large walls which border private gardens or divide the site with sandblasted text in large scale letters of 3-4 feet high relating to Ayresome Park:



Neville Gabie & resident Mary Griffiths. Photos Evening Gazette

- AWAY will mark the area used by visiting fans
- ENCLOSURE marks the 'Boy's Enclosure'
- CHICKEN RUN refers to a phrase used to describe a flank of the pitch
- DEEP IN MY HEART I DO BELIEVE references a song specific to Middlesbrough fans - an American Civil rights anthem, recorded by Joan Baez in the early 1960's. Neville will also be marking the positions of the Penalty Spot at the Holgate end and the centre spot. For the Penalty Spot Neville will be casting a football into bronze, then painting it to resemble a ball children might have been playing with and left lying in the grass of a front garden. This will remain obvious enough though, so no one is tempted to kick it! The centre spot is situated at the entrance to a house and Neville's intention is to mark the spot with a pair of football boots (bronze cast and painted) as if they had been taken off to go inside.

A series of "pitch puddles" will be created in bronze to mark sites that have a reference to legendary Middlesbrough players and events.

Scarecrows

Cleveland Arts literature development worker Bob Beagrie and freelance artist Adrian Moule have been working with local youngsters this summer to create some fascinating scarecrows from waste materials. They first appeared at Middlesbrough's Environment Festival on 13th May and proved so successful that the scarecrows were used as an activity during the University of Teesside's Meteor programme in July which aimed to raise the aspirations of local primary school children in an area where few go on to higher education. The scarecrow making activity encouraged the children to utilise literacy, art and design skills and think about their future aspirations. The sessions involved group work and problem-solving skills in which the children wrote down their thoughts and wishes as riddles on strips of paper and then built 'scarecrows' from recyclable waste materials that incorporated their strips reflecting their aspirations. The exercise was based on a traditional custom whereby the scarecrow was built, paraded around the village or town, and then ceremoniously burned to return the materials/ aspirations to the earth.

For more information about literature projects see the back page.



Photo: Adrian Moule





clevelandarts

Welcome to clevelandarts news. The third issue of a quarterly newsletter giving information on Cleveland Arts' recent and upcoming projects.

Cleveland Arts is one of the North's leading arts development agencies working across Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton delivering a range of arts projects in education, health, reading and writing, public arts and arts equality. We act as a broker, linking artists with other organisations who wish to develop arts projects. We provide a comprehensive information service about the arts across Teesside including a slide index and artists database. More information can be found on our website www.clevelandarts.org

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education

Cleveland Arts work with many schools across Teesside to support artists in residence.



T-T-Timber. Photo: Evening Gazette

T-T-Timber

Poet, Pat Borthwick and dancers, Martin Wilson and Tess Chaytor (Tin Productions) worked with students and staff from Coulby Newham, St Gerard's, Viewley Hill and Holmwood Schools, Middlesbrough to devise, develop and perform *T-T-Timber* – an ambitious, imaginative programme combining words, dance, music and colour. The schools gave a public performance of *T-T-Timber* at Middlesbrough Theatre on 26th June.

Each school concentrated on a different aspect of the overall theme *T-T-Timber*. Trees and mans relation with them were represented in

contrasting poetry and dance, sometimes delicate and gentle as new growth or aggressive and violent as chain saws.

T-T-Timber was part of a two-year region-wide lottery funded programme called *The Arts Are Ours*. This aims to encourage new opportunities for artists, young people and teachers to work together and is one of the largest such projects in the country.

New Appointments

Mike Hill has been appointed as Cleveland Arts' new Director following Richard Russell's return to Southern Arts as Director of their Resource Development Unit.

Prior to joining Cleveland Arts, Mike was Director of the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth and before that ran the Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art in Sunderland. From 1978 to 1990 he worked for Cleveland County Council, setting up the Cleveland Gallery and Cleveland Crafts Centre and overseeing the Cleveland International Drawing Biennale.

Three Arts in the Community Development Workers have been appointed to support the participation of disabled people, in a three-year arts and social inclusion programme, Articulate. Karen Raftery, Lesley Featherstone and Rowena Somerville (job-share) will be co-ordinating arts projects which enable disabled people (including people who experience mental health problems) to explore issues affecting social exclusion, and then to enable participants to initiate and control a

range of arts projects which address social exclusion.



Mike Hill. Photo: Evening Gazette



Open arts AGM

Thursday 6th July saw Open arts first Annual General Meeting take place at Arc in Stockton. The event was well attended and featured a number of workshops along with a performance by *Get off our Backs* Theatre group. New membership arrangements and benefits were agreed by the meeting, to be introduced from August 2000. An annual fee of £4 has been introduced giving a range of benefits for members, including free use of the Arts Taxis scheme when it is reintroduced for four months from September 2000...

Art

...Art Taxis



Cleveland Arts are reintroducing the Art Taxi scheme for people who have mobility difficulties, visiting arts events during the autumn. Coinciding with The New Reality Festival, the scheme enables people who are disabled by transport difficulties to use free taxis to arts events. The scheme is funded by the Arts Council of England and is sponsored by Boro Taxis.

We are inviting passengers utilising the scheme, to send us their poems inspired by their journeys through Teesside. Selected poetry will be printed on to 'tickets' which will be issued to passengers. Please contact Cleveland Arts if you are interested in taking part in poetic travel-writing workshops.

the computers, Open arts has established a fantastic website at www.openarts.org.uk. The website has details of the New Reality festival and many other features including a Virtual Gallery.

Open arts is offering workshops in computer arts, please contact John Shingleton on 01642 264651, for details.

National Association for Fine Art Education
in collaboration with National Artists Association

Artists Access to Art Colleges Scheme

hosted by Cleveland College of Art & Design

Supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Councils of England and Northern Ireland and the Crafts Council

As part of the national project Cleveland College of Art & Design is offering practicing artists access to its facilities to develop their work. Access will be primarily in the sculpture, painting, print-making, photomedia and fashion/textiles area. For application forms & details contact the College Co-ordinator, Ken Young, Cleveland College of Art & Design, Green Lane, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 7RJ. Tel: (01642) 288 000.

Closing Date 31st August 2000



Articulate is a large-scale programme of work, to be co-ordinated by Cleveland Arts Equality Programme over the next three years, beginning in October 2000.

The programme will involve working closely with disabled people in Teesside to explore issues which concern them, through arts projects, and will identify aspirations for ambitious long-term arts projects which enable more equal community participation, and access initiatives which will be planned and developed to have a lasting impact.

If you would like to know more about Articulate or to talk to us about it please contact Luke Harding at Cleveland Arts.



The New Reality Millennium Festival From September 25th and throughout October 2000

The New Reality Millennium Festival is a Festival of disability arts;- of creativity, individual freedom and of collective strength. The festival will present some fantastic new work by several of the country's most cutting edge artists and companies, as well as work produced by disabled people on Teesside.

The full programme will be available from Cleveland Arts from the end of August, (and is also available to view on Open arts' New Reality Festival Website: www.openarts.org.uk).

Performances, exhibitions and participatory workshops will run from September 25th and run throughout October, with the official launch for the festival taking place on September 26th at Scope on Teesside from 1.30 pm. All are welcome to the launch when members of Scope will unveil their Millennium Window as well as The New Reality Festival T-shirt!

Festival Highlights include:

Sign Dance Theatre performances by the acclaimed company Common Ground; at Saltburn Community Theatre on Friday September 29th. (*Caliban and Miranda and Borders and Freeways*) and at Arc on Sunday October 1st. (*Distant Sisters*).

Multi-voiced through the mediums of dance, film, live music, song, sign theatre and puppetry. The company of deaf and hearing performers will also run workshops at both venues, please contact Cleveland Arts for details.

Mind the...gap performing arts present their acclaimed adaptation of *Of Mice and Men* at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre on September 26th and Middlesbrough Theatre on September 28th. An integrated cast including professional learning disabled actors bring a new dimension to the tragic story of



Common Ground Sign Dance Theatre: *Caliban and Miranda*

George, the 'smart little guy' and Lennie, who 'ain't bright' and their dream of independence and their own place where they'll live on 'the fatta the lan.'

New Work by experimental artists Outside Centre explores disabled peoples history, or lack of history and of their presence -**Determinable Barriers** : (Arc in Stockton, Saturday October 7th) is a new art experience containing film, sculpture, digital media, performance, writing, painting. Experimental art which will torment and move the audience.



This arts experience, as with each of the festival events comes to Teesside with associated workshops giving the opportunity for local people to participate.

The festival includes well over 20 events and activities, including writing, film, comedy, digital arts and you name it!

Our thanks go to the many other arts venues and arts organisations, to Open arts and to the community groups and disabled individuals who have contributed to the planning of this festival.

Come and use our Community Computers!

Cleveland Arts now has two computers, installed with digital arts software, available for use by the community. The computers have been provided by CIRA at the University of Teesside. To book time to use the computers, in connection with arts projects, please phone Cleveland Arts.

We are hosting Open arts' web project on one of

Leaving the 20th Century

New hanging in Ormesby

Ormesby Library has received a new wall-hanging, showing a panoramic view from the top of Ormesby Bank. The hanging, which has been designed and created by children from four local schools working in a unique collaboration with the textile artist Margaret Williams, is a combination of the techniques of silk-painting, felt-making and rug-making. It is permanently sited at the library entrance, opposite the main desk. On Monday 17th July, children from the schools were present in the library for the official hand-over ceremony.

The work consists of four linking panels, one made by each school: Overfields Primary has depicted the mouth of the Tees; St Gabriel's RC Primary has shown the Wilton industrial complex with its dominant cooling towers; Ormesby Primary has illustrated some of Middlesbrough's best-known landmarks, including the Transporter Bridge; while Nunthorpe Primary has opted for the sun rising over Roseberry Topping. Together, they make a hanging almost six metres long.

Margaret Williams said: "For me, it was a new experience, to co-ordinate the work of children from so many schools and to use this combination of silk-painting and felt-making. The work that the children have produced is quite delightful: the colours are really fresh and vivid, and the techniques are so direct that the children were able to master them in the comparatively short time we had together."

The project is a part of a large programme of work launched by Cleveland Arts, entitled *Leaving the 20th Century*. This has given children from 33 schools the chance to work with professional artists and craftspeople to record their impressions of the past, present and future

at this pivotal point in history. Other schools have collaborated with a glass artist, a blacksmith, a ceramicist and a digital artist.



Margaret Williams' Ormesby Library wall hanging. Photo: Carol Baker

West Redcar School Glass Mural

Here's to the last 100 years... This unique glass sculpture now graces a Teesside school wall. The mural – three by one-and-a-half metres in size – was made by staff and pupils during a special five-day project. It represents key moments during the last 100 years.

Amanda Bramley, head of drama at the school, was overjoyed with the finished article. "It's been a very exciting and educational project," said Mrs Bramley, who was part of the four-strong team of teachers who took part. "The children have had an opportunity to work in four different areas, so the scheme was very much a multi-educational one. And we're very excited about the sculpture!"

Tony Campbell and Sue Dear, from Creative Glass, worked with 75 pupils and teachers at West Redcar School to design and make the sculpture. Children worked with drama and music as well as art and writing during the project.



pupil Terry-Lee Campbell in front of Creative Glass' mural. Photo: Evening Gazette

Willow Talk



Yarm writer Maureen Almond describes her time as writer in residence with communities in the Portrack and Tilery areas of Stockton. The residency was based with Stockton on line – a multi-site study centre for adult learners and local community groups and resulted in *Willow Talk* an anthology of poems by users of the Willows Centre, Portrack.

"When I took on the role of poet in residence in the communities of Portrack, Tilery and Swainby, my brief was to 'encourage creative expression through the use of ICT, particularly through the use of the internet'. I started the residency with all sorts of ideas about how to make sure they could bring the world wide web of information and communication into their own community and get involved in it.

However, I quickly realized that of more importance to them, was a need to take their community out and get the global community to listen.

Naturally there was some apprehension at first – theirs and mine. What did they want with a poet? What did a poet want with them? But very soon a warm bond started to develop. There was a no-frills honesty and sharing I had forgotten still existed. They took me in – inclusion was not a problem for them, and for that I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Through their writing they have become competent in IT, have wider contacts outside their own immediate community and their work is published on their own website, (www.stockton-online.ac.uk under Voices on Line.) They have come to realize how loud they can shout by using quiet, ordered words and they have started turning to poetry to help them sort out emotions. What is truly amazing is that they have done this with babies on their knees, relationship problems on their minds, and little money in their pockets."

Maureen Almond

The book is available from Stockton on Line.



Year of the Artist is a unique national project that started in June 2000 and runs through to May 2001, that celebrates a vital element of our culture - the arts, and the artists who engage directly with our culture through an amazing array of activities.

This is one of the largest, most exciting and ambitious arts projects ever mounted in the UK, with a target of

1000 artists in residence in cities, towns, villages, rural and urban places across the country. Year of the Artist gives artists opportunities to

Details of some of the projects Cleveland Arts are involved with during Year of the Artist.

explore new ideas, space to create new work, unleash their inspiration, and create new forms of engagement with new audiences.

The first 'Year of' happened in 1992, and every year since there has been a celebration of a different art-form - in 1996 the Northern Arts Region hosted the Year of Visual Arts. Year of the Artist 2000 is the culmination of these Years and celebrates every conceivable art-form.

To find out more about Year of the Artist visit www.yearoftheartist.com

Artist will tell story of Boro's Season in Pictures

Lifelong Boro fan Richard Piers Rayner has been appointed as Middlesbrough Football Club's artist in residence for the 2000-2001 season.

Yarm-based Richard, a graphic novel artist, plans to produce an artistic record of Boro's Premier League season during his unique residency.



Richard Piers Rayner. Photo: Evening Gazette

Boro received 77 applications from artists of all art forms in all parts of Britain for the opportunity to work with the club's players, fans and staff behind the scenes at the BT Cellnet Riverside Stadium and Richard was the unanimous choice from eight artists interviewed by representatives of the football club, Cleveland Arts and Northern Arts.

A self-taught graphic artist, he has illustrated a variety of comic book series for both DC and Marvel Comics whilst publishing a number of graphic novels in a similar format.

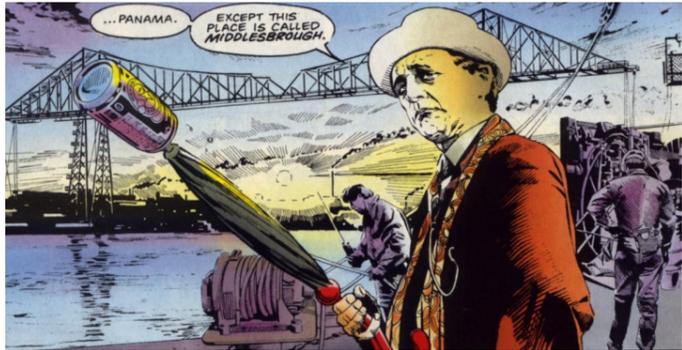
Now, through a series of detailed comic book-style sketches, he aims to tell the story of Boro's season on and off the pitch. Richard's work will be displayed throughout the term of the residency within the stadium, the club programme and official website. The completed work will appear in a book next summer whilst fans will be able to enjoy selected pictures when they go on display as part of an exhibition at the stadium at the end of the season.

Richard, 47, who will be spending at least two days a week at the club, said: "I can't wait to get started. This is the highlight of my career, a dream job. Unlike my fictional picture stories of the past, this time I don't know the end or the middle - and I'm pretty vague about the beginning!" He added: "I know there are bound to be comparisons with Roy of the Rovers but, in truth, this is the first time the worlds of professional football and comic books have merged. The potential is awesome."

Boro's Communications Manager Dave Allan said: "We're all looking forward to working with Richard. He aims to have several key characters throughout his story and will be looking for potential story lines. I'm sure fans will see him in and around the club as the season progresses."

From the club's point of view, we hope Richard will produce work that Boro fans will be able to enjoy not only over the course of the season but for many years to come."

Richard was chosen as Boro's artist in residence ahead of applicants who included painters, photographers, composers, writers, video artists, poets and dancers.



Example of Richard Piers Rayner art for Doctor Who classic comic. © Marvel Comics Ltd

Artist wanted - to work in Health!

A Teesside health trust is on the look out for an artist in residence to work with people in East Cleveland on an unusual project. To help mark the Year of the Artist, Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust has been awarded a £9,000 grant from Northern Arts to employ a part-time artist, who will use the art project to find out what the people of Brotton, Skelton and Loftus think about local health services. For a year the chosen artist will be based two days a week at East Cleveland Hospital in Brotton, where he or she will work with patients, visitors and staff, as well as going out into villages to work with local residents.

Margaret Baily, Locality Manager and Co-ordinator of the scheme, said: "The Trust is committed to improving the health and environment for people in the area. We hope the project will be an exciting and innovative way of helping us to understand what people think of local services and how they would like to see local health care develop in the future."

The Trust is now working with Cleveland Arts to look for artists interested in taking up this unique challenge. The organisations have no pre-set ideas about the art form that the project will take, but they are particularly keen to hear from artists who are interested in developing their own skills.

Painters, sculptors, craft workers, writers, photographers, or other artists interested in the project should contact Margaret Baily, for informal enquiries, on 01287 284000. For an application form and information pack contact: Personnel Department, Flatts Lane Centre, Flatts Lane, Normanby, Middlesbrough TS6 0SZ on 01642 283894.

Closing date: 6 September 2000

The aim of the multi-artform project **Cultural Tourist** is to celebrate the role of the artist and the Tees Valley region by creating opportunities for two internationally respected artist groups **Vexed Generation** (a design/fashion group based in London) and **MCo.T** (a multi-artform motor-cycling club from various locations in Germany).

Our **Cultural Tourists** will be given an itinerary and guide put together by Cleveland Arts, Tees Valley Tourism and many other partners. Cleveland Arts will also arrange for our visitors to be met by a number of 'holiday reps', who will act as host to specific sites. These may include a special tour of the landscape that inspired Ridley Scott's film *Blade Runner*; of industrial architecture; an experience of the Virtual Reality Centre; the beautiful and dramatic coastline and hidden gems such as Hartlepool's Headland. Important to all holidays is the experience of shopping and relaxing, built into the stay there will be plenty of chances for our tourists to respond to the regions many exciting bars, pubs and whole host of bistros, cafes and restaurants. The experience of and chance meetings during travel and within hotels, B&B and caravan sites will also play an important part of the residency.

We hope that it will stimulate the artists' own creative practice but also give a national and international visibility to the diverse range of locations and activities that the region has to offer. Cleveland Arts would like to arrange for the tourists to visit and experience places that are not necessarily considered as top of the list 'tourist locations', but that reveal something of the area's rich context, and who knows, perhaps expand the notions of cultural regeneration and tourism. In addition our **Cultural Tourists** may be able to help the region by promoting relationships between artists, cultural industries and business partners.

Vexed Generation (international artist/fashion designers) will be staying in Teesside in November. **Vexed** was established in 1994 by Adam Thorpe and Joe Hunter. The group was set up to produce clothes that suit an urban environment and promote issues of environmental and social significance. Garments incorporate new and unique design solutions to contemporary living, utilising respiratory protection and

events of social importance.

MC o.T [Visit to take place in September 2000] are a German motorcycling group, who make tours to various places. Four members of the group will visit Teesside: Andreas Bär (Stuttgart); fLeITer (Kassel); Ralph Runknagel [Nürtingen] and Wolfgang Hofmeister [Nürtingen]. The Northern region is of growing interest to European bikers. **MC o.T** are particularly interested in the relationship between motorcycling groups and artistic groups. They have been involved in a number of cross-artform and cross-specialism events that can include informal networking, video, film, photography and performance. MC o.T can stand for 'MotorradClub ohneTitel' (motorcycle-club untitled) or



MC o.T at Porcaro/Brittainv 1998

'MotorradClub oberer Totpunkt' (motorcycle-club upper deadpoint). *Upper Deadpoint* is a technical term defining the moment that the piston is in its highest position in the cylinder; the moment of highest power potential. For further information contact Philip Reilly at Cleveland Arts.



performance fabrics which are waterproof, fireproof and knife retardant. Designs address air pollution, urban surveillance and civil liberties which seek to attract attention, with every item of clothing carrying a net address providing access to information about their collection as well as

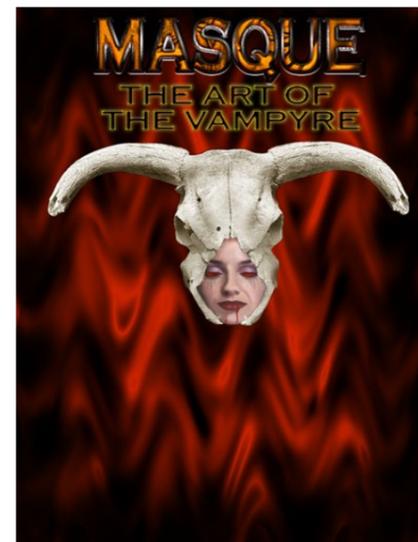


Illustration: Gabriele Kent

Masque - the Art of the Vampyre

Masque - The Art of the Vampyre is a project exploring Gothic Art and Gothic Literature. Digital artist Conrad Gaunt and writers Val Magee and Bob Beagrie will work with individuals and groups of young people aged 16 -25 from Middlesbrough and East Cleveland. These groups will include young writers, artists and players of the vampire-role playing game - Masquerade. A weekend school is being held at Village Arts on 16th & 17th September exploring the myth of the Vampyre and its impact on contemporary culture. The Masque weekend introduces participants to cross-art group collaborations involving gothic poetry and wyrd tales; painting, making and modelling, creative writing, film and digital arts and installation design. The weekend is free of charge but places are limited to 15. For more information and booking details contact Bob Beagrie at Cleveland Arts. Masque will culminate in a large installation and performance at the Cornerhouse, Middlesbrough and Village Arts early in 2001.

