

# Homage to Bowie among art exhibits

RETURNING to TAAG tomorrow are a group of artists from Exeter and Plymouth Art colleges, and [strangeartworld.com](http://strangeartworld.com). This year the group is joined by Angela Hilton, from Plymouth, for an eclectic mix of collage, sculpture, printmaking, found objects, taxidermy and even some painting.

Damien Hirst was famous for cutting a sheep in half and exhibiting it, and Steve Brown has experimented with taxidermy, turning a white rat into an homage to the late David Bowie. 'The rat came from a pet shop and was dead already,' said Steve. 'The technique is a bit of a cross between butchery and making a stuffed toy. When I gave him different coloured eyes he became David Bowie and he is now enjoying his 15 minutes of fame.'

Clare Heaton has created a range of sculptures which illustrate her walks in the Devon countryside. 'They are felted vessels with texts evoking a journey. The vessels are matted together with memories, anecdotes, conversations, emotions, thoughts, experiences and observations. They're mostly made with rare breeds sheep



**COUNTRYSIDE INSPIRATION:** Diary vessels by Clare Heaton.

fleece and found nature.' The result is indeed redolent of Devon wanderings.

A name to watch for the future is sculptor Ruth Carpenter. She makes the most wonderful shapes from ceramic, plaster and wood, that feel as if they are taking the work of Barbara Hepworth a stage further. The forms are beautiful, smooth and interestingly curved. Yet they are soaked in meaning.

If that is not enough, Whitney-Anne Baker produces original collages and digital art which observe and com-

ment – sometimes caustically – on the condition of society.

Karen Tarr explores the connections between art and science, embracing the natural world, and often using this as the source for abstract art.

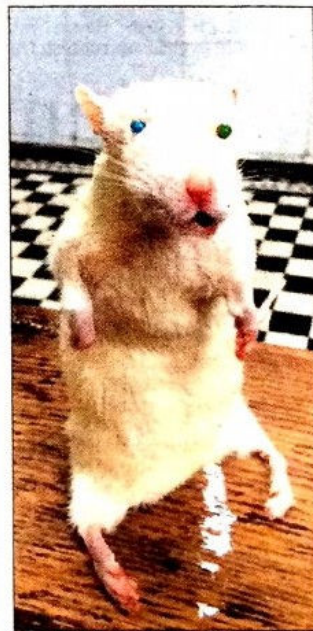
Finally, Angela Hilton's work involves 'the consideration of overlooked, discarded personal materials, and the messages these might hold in finding a form to accommodate the mess.'

Why the title of *Mistaken Identities*? Steve said: 'Mistaken Identities refers to the fact that we all have multiple roles, jobs and identities in our everyday lives. As artists, these may be mirrored in our work, but the work only reflects parts of who we really are.'

The exhibition takes place in TAAG Gallery 2 from tomorrow until next Friday and is open every day from 10am to 5pm.



**SCULPTOR:** Ruth Carpenter working on a cast of a human hand at Exeter College where she works.



**THE EYES HAVE IT:** Steve Brown's stuffed rat homage to the late David Bowie.