

**THE MARTIAN
HAS LANDED**

How one geek's space
fantasy became
a Hollywood reality

**WHEN DISASTER
STRIKES**

The British firm
called on to manage
catastrophe

**BRUNCHING IN
BROOKLYN**

New York's hippest
culinary hotspots

**WHAT'S UP,
DOC?**

Inside the Tardis with
Peter Capaldi

The world of Mat Collishaw, artist



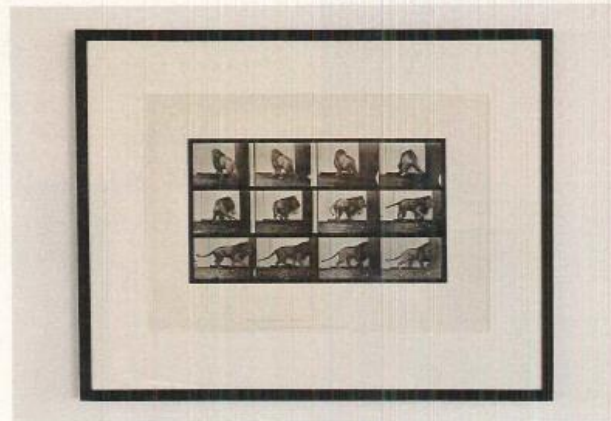
Mat Collishaw, 48, is one of several key British artists (YBAs) who attended Goldsmiths College in London in the late 1980s. He has two exhibitions opening this month: one at the New Art Gallery Walsall (thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk), the other at the Library of Birmingham (libraryofbirmingham.com). His girlfriend, the artist Polly Morgan, works with taxidermy. He lives in a converted pub in south-east London, with his son, Alex, 25 (matcollishaw.com).

Working day I get to my desk at nine, and start with emails. Every day is different – I'm often driving to different workshops, dropping things off and checking the progress of things being made, buying materials, visiting galleries and venues. It's like being in a pinball machine, bouncing from one project to another. I work in so many different mediums and materials – steel, acrylic and resin, 3D prints, painting, video projections – so a lot of it is administration. In the evenings it's a luxury to become physically involved and try out different things in my studio.

Background I grew up in Nottingham. My father was a dental technician; my mother brought up four boys and then did an Open University course and qualified as a

teacher. My parents are Christadelphians – they don't align themselves with any religious doctrine; they can worship anywhere. The mundane environment

becomes sacred because of what you do in it. **Stuffed bat** I bought the bat [pictured] from an antiques fair because it seemed to have a bit of character – it looked like a little pug with its eyes bulging out – and I hung it on my wall very proudly. Polly came in, burst out laughing and said it was an amateur job – a proper taxidermist would never glue the eyeballs on to the outside of a bat's skin. They should be secreted underneath the eyelids. She dismissed me as a buffoon for buying it.



Birmingham The Birmingham Library has a huge photographic archive, and they invited some artists to find photographs that interest them and make artwork out of them. I came across a sordid little box of West Midlands Police crime-scene negatives from the 1930s and 40s. There were rooms where something had happened and you had to imagine what it was. I photographed the negatives, printed them in phosphorescent ink and put them inside glass cases. If

you flash a lightbulb on them, the image comes to life then immediately starts to fade to almost nothing; it just glows because of the charge of the phosphorescent ink. These pictures have this sediment of illicit human behaviour – they're like stains.

Don McCullin We didn't have a TV and I used to draw a lot as a child. I also remember lying on the floor, looking at Don McCullin's photos in a magazine. They were so engaging because of the way he composed the picture, and his empathy for the subject. I read his biography [left] in 1992, when it came out. His work is a depiction of human abjection, but at the same time the composition is stunningly beautiful. My work attempts something similar – a lighttrope where you don't want something to be exploitative but you want to tell the story and engage your audience.



Ancient porn Tracey [Emin, Collishaw's ex-girlfriend] found this big sack of photos at Spitalfields market and thoughtfully bought it for me: hand-printed 1970s black and white pornography [left], but I haven't yet come up with a project for it. That kind of porn is becoming almost quaint now. **3D print** I started 3D printing in 2007, when it was

I swapped this Eadweard Muybridge print with an art dealer, Karsten Schubert, in the early 90s. Muybridge was very important in the history of photography and animation, the first person to master analysis of movement, of human and animal locomotion. That's what I'm trying to do all the time in the zootrope works I make.



still in its infancy. This is an early example [above]. I was making a 3D zootrope – a Victorian optical illusion, but in three dimensions – and the only way you could get a smooth animation was by 3D printing. One of the reasons I haven't bought a

3D printer myself is that they are evolving so quickly it would be out of date by next year. So I use production labs in Madrid, Belgium and London. You email your file, and 12 days later you get the model in the post.

Baseball bat Camberwell is



still quite a gritty area. My son Alex came home one day and the alarm was going off, the doors were smashed and he heard a couple of people running downstairs and out of the building. Our terriers were there, and it would have been nice if they'd fulfilled some kind of function as dogs and seen these guys off, but more likely they were looking for a little cuddle and accompanied them as they went round stealing our valuables. Alex was shaken up, so for Christmas I gave

work is out there, the less it's valued. Sarah doesn't give a shit about that. **Gadget** My dad is very good with his hands. He saw this idea in a magazine or on TV – a mechanism by which you can stretch soap into a sheet, like paper, which



would then have iridescent oily residue on it. My dad made this [below] in his garage and suggested I could project something on it or through it or use it as a screen – but I haven't found the right subject yet. **Home** I went to Goldsmiths 19 years ago, which used to be about two minutes from here. Then I moved to north London, then east London. I was looking for somewhere to buy and five years ago this place came up. I really like the proportions of it. There's something about



living on a corner and having windows on three sides. Not a day goes by when I don't feel privileged. It looks a little run down from the outside, but when you move around in it, it just feels so handsome.

Interview by Jessamy Calkin. Photographs by Toby Coulson

Next week: Amanda Abbington, actress