

theEditorial



Step aside Andy Warhol: the new art icons are Scottish

Why Scotland needs Tramway

Scotland Rocks!' So screams the breathless front cover of a recent *Tate, the art magazine*. Think about the impact of Scottish art over the past decade, and it's hard to disagree. All over the world, from New York to Beijing, artists such as Douglas Gordon and Richard Wright are the hipsters' hot topics. At this year's Venice Art Biennale, stalls were touting T-shirts emblazoned with Dougie G's face, alongside those more familiar icons, Andy Warhol and Che Guevara. Maybe they'd mistaken him for Robbie Williams.

It's not only in the world of art that Scotland is making the pace. For a country whose population is a tenth of California's, the number of great filmmakers, actors, musicians, writers, and artists is extraordinary. I don't need to list them; you know who they are. But did you know, for example, that Ian Rankin's Rebus novels account for a whopping 10% of all UK book sales?

So, when I was invited to move to Scotland to become the new editor of *The List*, I didn't think twice. As a publisher of magazines and books on art, architecture and design, I've been visiting Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee since the mid-90s. I've edited books about the new Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, and the Homes for the Future project in Glasgow; I sponsored a design exhibition at Tramway in 1993. Yup, I'm a sucker for it here.

All the more shocking, then, that on my very first morning at the editor's desk, news came through of the plans to close Glasgow's Tramway 2 art space to the public. Apparently the programme doesn't offer 'value for money'. If the implications weren't so serious, you'd laugh. For all its faults, Tramway has helped to put Scottish art on the international map. Not only did it show Gordon's '24 Hour Psycho' for the first time, but it has exhibited some of the great artists from abroad. Tramway has been a breeding ground for Scottish artists and curators whose work is genuinely world class. And these are the people who give Scotland the kind of cultural credibility that other countries so desperately crave. Take away their exhibition spaces, and the artists will move elsewhere. That will leave everyone in Scotland worse off. (Nick Barley)

CULT OF THE FORTNIGHT



American sitcom has come a long way since the friendly, cosy old *Cosby Show*. Now Larry David, the grumpy co-creator of *Seinfeld*, stars in his own show which sets out to offend as many people as possible.

Curb Your Enthusiasm is the freshest, oddest and, honestly, the quirkiest sitcom in years. It's about a TV writer (called Larry David) who once had a hit series (called *Seinfeld*). His wife Cheryl David (played by Cheryl Hines), and best friend, actor Richard Lewis (played by actor Richard Lewis) are continually exasperated by Larry's inability to conduct a single day of his life without an avoidable trauma occurring. Are you getting the fiction/reality-blurring picture?

Wonderfully subtle, highly intelligent and pleasingly coarse, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* contains more invention in its opening credits than most British sitcoms have in a whole box set. Unlike Larry, you will end up with a smile on your face. (Brian Donaldson)

■ *Curb Your Enthusiasm* is on BBC4 from Tue 21 Oct, 10.30pm, repeated on BBC2 later in the year.

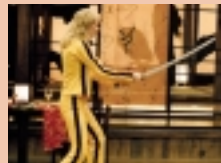
Top 10

The things you simply have to do this issue



1 The Darkness

Music They believe in a thing called love. And we have faith in the Darkness. But are they the saviours of rock or will their 'joke' tap itself out? See feature, page 20 *Barrowland, Glasgow*.



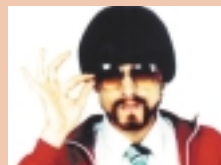
2 Kill Bill Vol 1

Film The much heralded return of Tarantino won't disappoint his legions of fans. Apart from the ones who want his trademark soliloquies. See Film, page 24 *General release*.



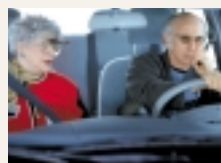
3 The Complete Maus

Comics Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork about the Holocaust is brought together for the first time in one volume. See Buy it this Fortnight, page 103 *Penguin*.



4 Durex Performa Tour

Comedy The likes of Mackenzie Crook, Daniel Kitson and Tommy Tiernan take to the Big Top in the name of condoms and comedy. See feature, page 74 *Big Top, Glasgow*.



5 Curb Your Enthusiasm

TV The underrated genius, Larry David, brings us the second series of his neurotic, blundering, coarse sitcom. It's nothing less than a modern day *Fawlty Towers*. See Cult of the Fortnight, this page *BBC4*.



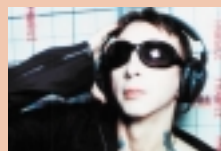
6 Storm

Art Dalziel + Scullion continue their exploration of the natural environment in this installation with images that reveals ecological conditions around Scotland. See Art, page 89 *Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow*.



7 Vincent in Brixton

Theatre There's always been plenty of conjecture about Vincent van Gogh's life. This tremendous piece speculates on the Dutch master's time in London as a young man. See Theatre, page 63 *King's Theatre, Edinburgh*.



8 Marc Almond

Clubs The former Soft Cell man breathes life into Death Disco, one third of a night featuring Traxx and Melting Pot. See Clubs, page 78 *Arches, Glasgow*.



9 Champions' League

Sport Alex Ferguson returns to Govan bringing his Red Army to meet his protégé Alex McLeish's Scottish champs in one of those Battle of Britain-type affairs. See Sport, page 99 *Ibrox, Glasgow; Sky Sports*.



10 Martin Bell

Books The man in the white suit throws an event to mark the launch of his fine memoir, *Through Gates of Fire*. See Edinburgh Life and Books, pages 101 and 104 *Queen's Hall, Edinburgh; Weidenfeld & Nicolson*.