

McCartney who designed the gallery's wrapping paper, and one third of the then popular beat combo Peter, Paul and Mary). Next door was the Scotch St James's nightclub, the favoured hangout of the scene, and one day in 1966 Dunbar brought his friend John Lennon to see a show at the gallery by Yoko Ono – the rest, as they say, is history. It is to be hoped that Hyman can recapture some of the 60s madness as remembered by Dunbar: 'All sorts of odd people would come to our shows – Roman Polanski was a kind of regular – because the gallery very quickly became well known not only for its scene, with all the pop stars that hung around, but also because it attracted an "it isn't art" tabloidy craziness' (see AM212).

A welcome addition to London's East End gallery scene will be Hammer Sidi, which opens at 53 Fashion Street, E1, on October 4. The gallery is the brainchild of the Manchester actor Nick Sidi and the Swedish gallerist/curator Lotta Hammer, whose first gallery had been in Fitzrovia's Cleveland Street some years ago. The new gallery's first exhibition will present work by Ian Monroe from New York, Per Mølgaard from Copenhagen, Friedrich Kunath from Cologne, David Mackintosh from Manchester and Cedar Lewisohn and Bob & Roberta Smith from London. For more info go to www.hammersidi.com.

After a period of closure and an ongoing £2m refurbishment programme, Foyles bookshop has relaunched its gallery at 113-119 Charing Cross Road, London WC2. Apart from exhibitions, the gallery will continue to be used for literary as well as arts events. Christopher Foyle, the company chairman, comments how the gallery appropriated the ethos of Gilbert & George even before they were born: 'Foyles launched its first art gallery in 1930 with the motto "art for all" and has held many eclectic exhibitions there from prayer stool needlework to modern fine bindings, silversmith work and contemporary jewellery.' For more information on Foyles' grasp of contemporary art go to www.foyles.co.uk.

The Focus Gallery has moved from its slightly cramped space in Bloomsbury's Museum Street to a much more spacious gallery at 3-4 Percy Street in Fitzrovia, London W1. Its first exhibition in its new space is of photographs of eccentrics by Tony Ray-Jones: 'Eccentricity may be impractical, uncomfortable, at times a nuisance.

But it denotes character and individuality and pleases the escapist impulse in all of us.' For further information go to www.focusgallery.co.uk.

Following last year's cult success, *Dogtown & Z-boys*, narrated by Sean Penn, it was almost inevitable that the latest new gallery in London should be found in the basement of Cide, the 100% skater-owned shop which was opened in July by Alan Rushbrook (Alphanumeric), Rich Holland (Bullet) and Greg Finch at 88 Lower Marsh Street, SE1. The gallery is simply called 88B, and its first exhibition, until October 12, was 'The Revenge of the Green Man' by Toby Shuall. The owners of 88B 'wanted to give artists a space where they could show their work without any pressure, the fact that the majority of them do skateboard is by mere chance, and more a reflection of 8/10 skateboarders being creative or work in the creative industry. At last they have a place where they feel at home and have been going to ever since they were kids, a skate shop.' Shuall grew up in the north-west suburbs of London and from about the age of 12 started to travel up to central London to skate in the city and at the South Bank. For more information go to www.skatecide.com.

Just down the road from 88B, overlooking the river and the South Bank skaters will be the new Saatchi Gallery. Over the last year there has been much speculation as to whether Saatchi would or would not take up residence in the old GLC County Hall. Saatchi obviously feels lucky as the announcement was made last month, on Friday the 13th, that the new gallery will open in Spring 2003. The building was selected because of its prominence on the South Bank, the grandness of the building's rooms, with their high ceilings, river views and the fact that the parade in front of County Hall attracts over 12m visitors a year. Saatchi commented that 'Tate Modern is astonishing and I love the Hayward and the Serpentine. But I think that new British art is the most exciting in the world and needs a dedicated showcase. The extraordinary rooms in County Hall will make an interesting setting for works like Hirst's shark and Emin's bed. I don't want the artists I believe in having to wait until they are pensioners before the public has a chance to see their works in large scale shows.' The gallery will concentrate on exhibiting art from Saatchi's own collection, including large-scale shows of Dinos & Jake Chapman, Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Sarah Lucas and Jenny

Saville. It will also present exhibitions from other international collections and museums. Sir Nicholas Serota gamely commented that 'Any move by Charles Saatchi is interesting. We welcome his move to the South Bank.' ■

Sugar, sugar

Acme's latest work/live artists' residency programme has recently started at the Sugar House, a converted Victorian warehouse in London E15. The Sugar House will be managed by Acme for ten years and forms part of the Boss Business Village on Sugar House Lane. The scheme has been developed as a partnership between Solon Co-operative Housing Services, the Boss Group and Acme Studios, and has been joint-funded by the Housing Corporation, Stratford Development Partnership and Acme. Eight artists have been selected from an open submission for the five-year residency, and they are: Neil Exeter, Louisa Fairclough, James Fisher, James Grant, Al Holmes, Brigid McCleer, Gail Pickering and David Rhodes. The scheme at the Sugar House complements the work/live programme at Acme's Fire Station building in Gillender Street, London E14, where 12 artists are part-way through the second programme (April 2001/February 2005). In addition to this relationship with the Boss Group at the Sugar House, Acme has also signed a 25 year lease with the Boss Property Ltd on 23,500 sqft of ground and first floor industrial space which forms part of the Boss Business Village on Sugar House Lane. Acme's plan is to convert the building to provide up to 50 studios, which will become ready for occupation in April 2004. ■

Painting

A new series of talks at the Starr Auditorium of Tate Modern kicks off on October 15 when modernist critic and art historian Michael Fried asks what is painting today? The series of events, mounted in collaboration with Central Saint Martins College of Art, continues on October 29, when the American painter David Reed discusses his own work and the references it draws on from Abstract Expressionism to Postminimalism and from Baroque painting to the movie screen. Each of the two talks starts at 18.30 and tickets are £6/£3. Call 020 7887 8888 for information and to book tickets. ■



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