

ART

5
of the
best

Essex Road 6

Tintype Gallery, N1 to 9 Feb

The great Adam Chodzko is among the participants in this group show. Chodzko's disconcerting interventions on the border of art and life (Fluid Dynamics; The Raising of the Quail, pictured) are always worth investigating. Other good artists here include Ayo Akingbade, Rebecca Lennon, Patrick Goddard, Melanie Smith and Webb-Ellis.

Damien Hirst

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Wakefield, to 1 Apr 2022

So much that passes for contemporary art is smooth, smart and completely forgettable. Damien Hirst is a monster in this mainstream, as hated by cool arty people as he is by any traditionalists who may survive. And that's why he matters. His giant bronze sculptures stick out like sore thumbs on this sculpture park's rolling hills - luridly painted lifelike statues that are both ugly and compelling.

Hello, Robot

V&A Dundee, to 9 Feb

Fantasies of intelligent and mobile machines have stalked the modern imagination from Fritz Lang's Metropolis to The Terminator and beyond. But are our robot dreams - and nightmares - becoming real? This exhibition mixes the latest strides in robotics with the rich legacy of science fiction to explore the boundaries of technology. The Star Wars droids make a timely guest appearance. But are their real-world cousins as characterful?

Digital Strata

London Arts Board, SE5, to 2 Feb

The London Arts Board sounds authoritative but it's just an old billboard on a Camberwell street corner where upcoming artists create public projects. Seungwon Jung's is about the nature of time. She uses the imagery of geological strata, layers of rock that reveal millions of years of time, to explore the "deep time" of memory.

Anatomy of an artwork Sam Taylor-Johnson's David

Golden slumbers ... Over an hour in length and filmed in a single take, Sam Taylor-Johnson's video portrait of footballer David Beckham was created during a scheduled post-training siesta in a Madrid hotel room in 2004.

Pillow talk ... Foreshadowing the work is Michelangelo's sculpture Night and Warhol's film of his snoozing boyfriend, Sleep. Like Warhol, Taylor-Johnson lets us witness something only lovers get to share, as if we were pillow to pillow, taking us closer to her subject than lurid tabloid stories ever can. There's no snoring or farting, mind you, just a beautiful topless man with a dreamer's flickering smile.

Dream on ... Transforming Beckham - the pre-eminent example of male physical prowess - into a passive Sleeping Beauty pushes multiple buttons. Not least, turning the tables on centuries of male artists depicting slumbering women who, by virtue of being unconscious, are implied to be sexually available.

Oh baby ... It is currently installed in the ultrasound department of the east London hospital where Beckham was born. **Skye Sherwin** Whipps Cross University Hospital, E11, to 30 Mar

Bill Brandt's

Nude, East Sussex Coast (1960)



Booking now

Bill Brandt/Henry Moore
The Hepworth, Wakefield, 7 Feb to 31 May

The photographer Bill Brandt met the sculptor Henry Moore when they were making shelter pictures during the blitz. Tracing their creative overlaps from this moment, this show will explore their shared interest in working life, nature and Britain's ancient sites, as well as Brandt's portraits of Moore himself. **SS**



ADAM CHODZKO; DAVID PARRY/NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Feast & Fast Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, to 26 Apr

Food has obsessed painters ever since ancient Greek artists competed to fool birds into pecking their pictures of fruit. But the painting of food reached its apogee in the 17th century when Caravaggio's black grapes pointed the way to richly real displays of Dutch cheeses, beer and lobsters and Spanish celery and meat. This show surveys a truly delicious theme from 1500 to 1800. **Jonathan Jones**

