

## **IN WITH THE NEW: ART MADE AFFORDABLE AT THE MIDLANDS' LARGEST CONTEMPORARY FESTIVAL**

**New Art Birmingham, the Midlands' largest visual arts festival, will return in March for a four day showcase of the UK's best emerging contemporary visual artists.**

From **March 15-18, New Art Birmingham 2007** will exhibit the work of more than 100 contemporary painters, photographers, sculptors, printmakers and digital media artists. It follows a successful inaugural event in 2005.

60 artists will exhibit their work at a flourishing **Art Market** to be held at **Curzon Street Station**, a Grade I listed building. The market will give art lovers access to affordable contemporary work by new and emerging artists, with the chance to buy and commission work directly from them.



A series of associated events will be held simultaneously at venues across the region, including the **Ikon Gallery, New Art Gallery Walsall, Midlands Arts Centre, The Lighthouse** in Wolverhampton, and **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**.

**Art Market's** participating artists were chosen via a selection panel which included **Tim Eastop**, Head of Visual Arts Development and International Artist Fellowships at Arts Council England; **Stephen Snoddy**, Director of New Art Gallery Walsall; the artist **Barbara Walker** and **Chris Hammond**, Director of MOT Gallery in London.

Commenting on the chosen artists for the Art Market, **Tim Eastop** said:

"What struck me was the wealth of applications from photographers, which reflects the artistic climate at the moment. The conceptual basis on which the work was formed was very much influenced by a preoccupation with the emptiness of post-



industrial Britain, which may reflect the urban landscape many of the applicants have grown up surrounded by.

“I strongly support initiatives such as New Art Birmingham that seek to stimulate and expand contemporary art across the UK. I am a great advocate of increasing the interaction between audiences, buyers and artists in regions where the market is developing all the time.”

**Susan McNally, co-project manager, continued:** “The range of events this year is so diverse, from the massive Art Market to the involvement of high profile venues such as Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and New Art Gallery Walsall. There is something for everyone with an interest in art, at a price most of us can afford.”

**Nicola Shipley, co-project manager, continued:** “It’s an exciting time for the regional arts scene in this country, and New Art Birmingham is making a genuine contribution to that scene. It’s about time we shouted louder about developments outside of London”.



For detailed listings, participating artists and venues at New Art Birmingham 2007, visit [www.urban-fusion.info/nab](http://www.urban-fusion.info/nab) or phone 0121 464 8555.

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### Notes to Editors

1. New Art Birmingham is a partnership project funded by Birmingham and Solihull Business Link, Birmingham City Council’s Urban Fusion Programme, Arts Council England, ERDF and Equal.
2. Business Link provides a forward-thinking, dynamic support service that provides a blend of the highest levels of business advice and support for creative and innovative initiatives.
3. Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts in England. Between 2005 and 2008, they are investing £1.7 billion of public funds from government and National Lottery. This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England. Arts Council believe that the arts have the power to transform lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country. Their vision is to promote the arts at the heart of national life, reflecting England’s rich and diverse cultural identity. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)
4. Urban Fusion is

an explosion of creativity and events, bringing more than 60 of the city’s leading lights in arts together and culture. Funded by  Birmingham City Council the 

Arts Council and the Millennium Commission, the programme covers six key themes around music, poetry and literature, city regeneration, cultural diversity, visual arts and the celebration of talent. Connect with culture now at [www.urban-fusion.info](http://www.urban-fusion.info)

