# <art>

With Dave Freak

## Feature: Architecture

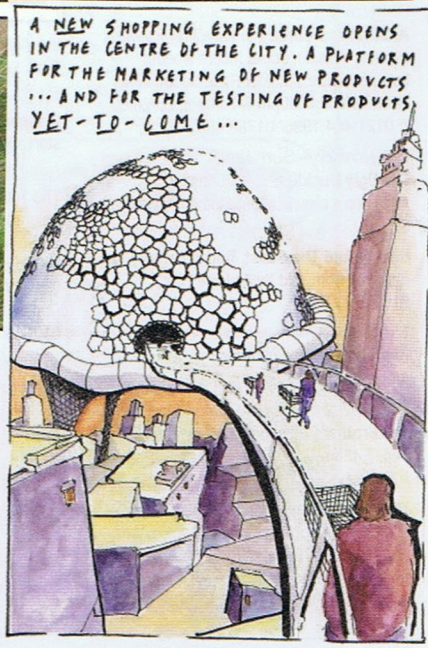
**Dec 6-Jan 31, Eastside Projects, Bham**

The Wild West, Hinduism and zombie B-movies provide the inspiration for rising British artist Shezad Dawood's full-length movie, Feature.

Exploring the difference space between live performance and cinematic representation and linked by the theme of the legendary Battle Of Little Big Horn, Dawood stars as Billy the Krishna (a merging of cowboy anti-hero Billy the Kid and Hinduism's Lord Krishna) alongside a Valkyrie opera and zombie cowboys for a production. Also referencing music hall and French new wave cinema, and shot in rural Cambridgeshire, the cast features several renowned artists including Cherokee Jimmie Durham, David Medalla and Doug Fishbone, who filled Trafalgar Square with 30,000 bananas back in 2004, plus Royal Danish Opera mezzo soprano Hetna Regitze Bruun, jockeys from Newmarket racecourse, a Chinese football team and local children.

Meanwhile, film set makers will be transforming the gallery space into a mock Western film set, complete with the narrow façades of cowboy saloons and barber shops, and specially commissioned Wild West backdrops painted by artists from Pakistan.

Dawood, who has previously had work shown at Tate Modern and the Saatchi Gallery, has also collaborated with Berlin-based artist Henrik Schrat for a one-day-comic. In a second exhibition, Schrat has invited various guest writers and artists to co-produce a comicbook from scratch in 24 hours.




Pages from a dozen collaborations will be displayed on Dawood's Wild West film set, including Celine Condorelli, Dawood, and Simon and Tom Bloor.

## Dreams of Science

**Nov 29-Jan 16, Wolverhampton Art Gallery**

Marking the 150th anniversary of the theory of natural selection by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace in 1858, along with the publication of Darwin's On The Origin Of Species in 1859 and his 200th birthday (in February), Wolverhampton Art Gallery uncovers a strange selection of Darwin themed works hailing from the former USSR.

Established in Moscow in 1907, the State Darwin Museum was set up to explore the themes of natural history and the history of evolution – the first such institution of its kind in the world. Among its employees where two artists, Mikhail Yezuchevskii (1880-1928) and Victor Yevstafiev (1916-1989), whose job entailed creating paintings, drawing and sculptures that could be displayed alongside specimens.

Inspired by letters, prints and Darwin's autobiography, the artists imagined scenes of the Shrewsbury-born naturalist collecting specimens and formulating his ideas, depicting a near heroic figure hunting fish and birds, and hammering for geological treasures, with many reflecting the lives of the artists, and the often turbulent political times they lived through.

## Ana Maria Pacheco

**Until Jan 4, The Herbert, Coventry**
**www.anamariapacheco.co.uk**

South Amercian artist Ana Maria Pacheco displays a selection of prints, paintings and sculptures in her largest exhibition in the region since a showing at Birmingham Museum And Art Gallery's then just opened Gas Hall back in 1994.

At the heart of the exhibition are five suites of prints using a variety of techniques – Rehearsal 1-10 (etching), Terra Ignota 1-10 (drypoint), Gargantua and Pantagruel I-X (woodcut), Lux Aeterna I and II (drypoint) and Tales of Transformation I-V (multi-plate colour etching). Each finds the artist, who was born in Brazil but relocated to England in the early '70s, exploring South Amercian folklore, classical myths, Catholic rituals and medieval satire for a series of mysterious, alluring and dramatic images.

Joining the prints are a number of paintings and sculptures on loan from Birmingham and Wolverhampton collections, with the sculptures in particular packing a sizeable punch. The gathered life-sized figures of Man And His Sheep, for example, are unnerving and creepy. With enlarged heads, their proportions are cartoon-esque, yet their fearful and excited expressions, complete with life-like embedded teeth, seem strangely human as the group of seven clothed characters stand behind a semi-naked lead male with rams head on a pole.

Tucked away in the recently reopened Herbert, it's an exhibition that's well worth hunting out... although you probably won't want to stay in the room on your own with those sculptures for too long.