

exhibitions



● **Tony Cragg**
London

Tony Cragg is not a sculptor known for sitting still. Charting a course through his work since the 1970s, you're as likely to bump into assemblages of found flotsam as graceful carved objects or sculptures fashioned from shards of plastic and painted bits of wood. These days the lauded Brit's focusing on highly finished biomorphic shapes in wood, fibreglass or steel. Brancusi's dynamic, mobile looking forms cast their shadow on new large-scale works in his latest exhibition.

Yet Cragg's twisting, rippling hunks of matter are futurism through the looking glass. Suggesting silhouettes of faces and bodies, these sculptures judder like the wibbly-wobbly world glimpsed in funhouse mirrors. Cragg's lost none of his verve for making his materials do things that shouldn't be possible. **SKYE SHERWIN**
Lisson Gallery, NW1, Wed to 17 Apr

● **Artes Mundi 4: Arts Of The World** Cardiff

With £40,000 on offer, the biannual Artes Mundi is Britain's biggest art prize. To qualify, "the human condition" is the far from narrow premise that the eight contenders must enlighten in their work. Yael Bartana's films and photography (work pictured) address the intersection of the individual and the state



in Israel; Fernando Bryce's drawings excavate political histories; and Bulgarian-born Turkish artist Ergin Çavusoglu,

Taiwanese Chen Chieh-jen and Albanian Adrian Paci explore globalisation and migration. Olga Chernysheva tackles tumultuous change in Russia, while the Kyrgyzstan-born Gulnara Kasmalieva and Muratbek Djumaliev address the fall of communism. **ss**
National Museum Cardiff, to 6 Jun

● **Alex Frost** Dundee

Blandly posed faces and even more blandly packaged foodstuffs are portrayed with an unusual, almost perverse technical awkwardness. From the back of the paper, Alex Frost makes a pattern of pinpricks through which he squeezes paint. These pixelations, what he calls "blind drawings", appear the result of some cack-handed obsessive trying



to emulate sophisticated computer imagery. For a residency at Glenfiddich Distillery, he launched a

fleet of giant noses across the factory's cooling pool. Transported to the gallery, they stand like dismembered sentinels. There's also a mural of kitsch starfish, alligators and coral. Presenting such visual gags with a deadpan seriousness, Frost jokingly titles the show *The Connoisseurs*.

ROBERT CLARK
Dundee Contemporary Arts, Sat to 23 May

● **Helio-centric** Sunderland

Stephen Hawking has described Galileo's heliocentric universal idea that the Earth rotates around the sun as "responsible for the birth of modern science." Here, the Brighton-based duo Semiconductor present a time-lapse film that uses astronomical tracking to trace the movements of landscapes across the



sun. The lens flares into white light and colours spread like hallucinations as the camera focuses on visual phenomena that lie beyond the range of the

naked eye's vulnerability. While Semiconductor are art and science buffs, and have worked with the Smithsonian and Nasa's California Space Laboratory, there is an air of almost visionary delight about their awestruck reflections. **RC**
Northern Gallery For Contemporary Art, to 30 Apr