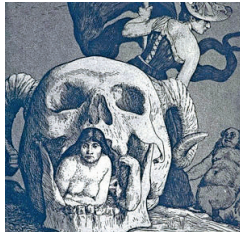


● **William Strang** Edinburgh

Titled *Fair Faces*, *Dark Places*, this show of prints and drawings by the late 19th-century Scottish artist harks back to a time when painstaking technical precision could be wielded both to immortalise the living and to give credible life to the farthest reaches of the subconscious.



He shifts between graphically meticulous drawings of Thomas

Hardy and something altogether darker. *Grotesque* from 1897 (pictured) sees the artist turning inwards, offering up gothic compositions featuring monstrous skulls, seductive nudes and amoebic blobs from the beyond. **RC** *Scottish National Gallery, to 15 Feb*



● **CRW Nevinson** Birmingham

It's a historical fact that some artists feed off conflict. Just as Picasso used the dramatic bombing of Spanish innocents in *Guernica* to fuel his cubist experiments with spatial fragmentation, his British contemporary CRW Nevinson produced his most exciting paintings when inspired by the dynamic devastations of first world war no-man's land. This exhibition follows Nevinson's career as the famously mercurial artist shifted from creating official government propaganda through to the anti-war protest of his later, more jaggedly geometric compositions. The artist is as obviously turned on by the illuminating explosion of a star shell as he is repulsed by the pallid makeup of his prostitute (pictured). While one cannot but feel unnerved by his gloating, perhaps feeling uncomfortably ambivalent is the appropriate response to such subject matter. **RC** *Barber Institute Of Fine Arts, to 25 Jan*

● **Edward Steichen, Viviane Sassen** London

Fashion photographers Edward Steichen and Viviane Sassen's work bookends the 20th century. Steichen began as a painter but in the 1920s became the highest-paid photographer of his day through his work for *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*. Sassen's works (pictured) for edgy fashion tomes such as *Purple* and *Another Magazine* are improvised concoctions of contrasting hues, shapes and lines; it can be hard to spot the clothes. It's an intriguing vision of fashion photography on the run from itself. **SS** *The Photographer's Gallery, W1, Fri to 18 Jan*



● **Jerwood Open Forest: Semiconductor** nr Farnham

The British artist duo Semiconductor are best-known for tech-geek films that bring hidden aspects of modern life into view with digital wizardry, from invisible soundscapes to geomagnetic storms. Their latest project - part of a new public sculpture initiative from the Jerwood



Foundation - sees them transform abstract data into something solid. Throughout this year they've witnessed how the carbon dioxide

breathed in and out by the trees is tracked. This data has been reimaged in sculptural form and now the fruits of their labour are unveiled. Their orb, which fuses art and science, suggests a micro-and macro-view of the planet: geology up close and the Earth seen from space. **SS** *Alice Holt Forest, to 23 Feb*