

art

# Attention-seeking tactics

If you bring it, they will come – the 'it' being modern art. Jennifer Lisle-Revy has a private view with the Ikon Gallery's creative director

**D**ressed like a one-woman Scottish theme party (mohair tartan suit, plaid Doc Martens and a bagpiper wristwatch), Elizabeth Macgregor, creative director of Birmingham's hippest art space, Ikon Gallery, is no stranger to attracting attention and spreading the word about contemporary art. Originally from the Orkney Islands, she got her start in 1980 by driving an 'art bus' – a travelling gallery sponsored by the Scottish Arts Council, which toured remote regions setting up avant-garde exhibits. 'When I rolled in, it was like the circus, so people were not inhibited by the work,' she says.

By moving the 33-year-old Ikon from its backstreet location into a four-storey Victorian schoolhouse in the city centre, Macgregor hopes the art will attract local pedestrians and become a more accessible presence in public life. 'People think art has to come in gold frames,' she says. 'They don't realise artists can connect with people's lives.' The gallery's opening shows, beginning on March 21, include Nancy Spero wall drawings and an 'environment' by the YBA hipster Georgina Starr, called Tuberama. Viewers walk through a staged tube ride complete with animated films and sound booths in which the fictional passengers sing their life stories. 'If art is not separated from life,' says Macgregor, 'then people accept it.'

*Ikon Gallery, Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS, tel (0121) 643 0708. Open 10am-6pm, Tuesday-Saturday. Nancy Spero and Tuberama by Georgina Starr, March 21 to May 24.*



# television Frock on

**T**elevision programmes about fashion to date have been pretty dire. Thankfully, a new four-part documentary, *Undressed: The Story of Twentieth Century Fashion*, shatters the mould. Focusing on four themes – rebellion, power, fantasy and sex – rather than a chronological history, it examines how fashion connects to larger cultural, historical, political and psychoanalytical issues in society. There's glamour too. The camera goes inside contemporary fashion houses, from Jil Sander to Givenchy, and there's comment from all the legendary figures, from Coco Chanel to Malcolm McLaren and fashion muse Amanda Harlech. Two years in the making by a team of experts (including ELLE's launch editor, Sally Brampton) and boasting the last-ever interview with Gianni Versace, it's hard to imagine a more intelligent, representative account of such a vast topic. *Undressed: The Story of Twentieth Century Fashion* starts on February 15 on Channel 4.

design

# Brilliant schemes

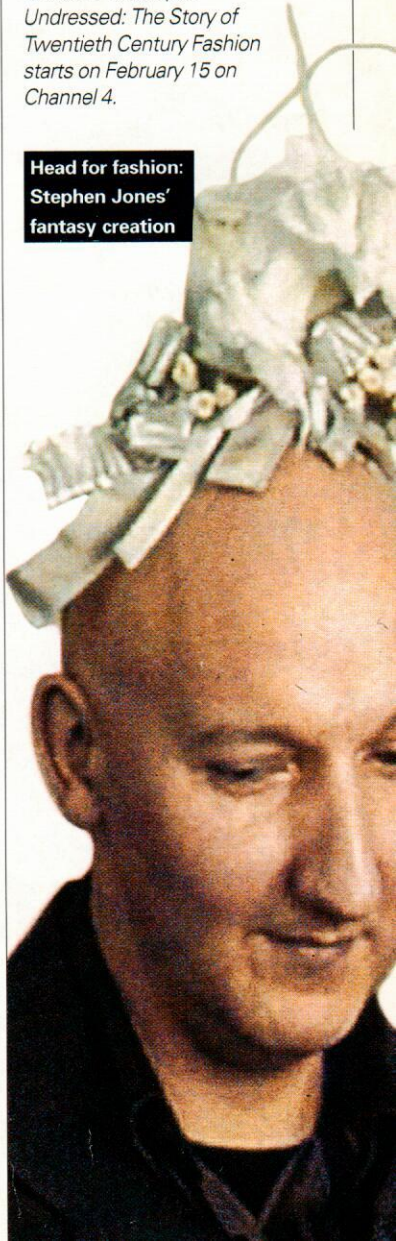
Charlotte Moore meets Peter Ting, the ceramics designer to the stars who's putting a very modern spin on an age-old tradition

'Everything about fashion applies to china. Apart from the fact that it doesn't get worn,' says Peter Ting, ceramics designer at Thomas Goode, London's gaudy, glittering emporium of fine bone china. 'When I first came here, it was very much a place of old-English faded

grandeur. It had this impeccable reputation, but there were holes in the carpet.' Since his appointment, Ting has injected a clean white stripe of modernism into the shop's fusty image, creating bold new lines using traditional techniques but with, he says, 'a much-needed contemporary eye'. His revamp has been so successful that 'Mr Versace and Mr John' (as he politely calls them) asked him to create bespoke dinner services for them. This month, Thomas Goode is making space for an exhibition of Ting's private work. 'It ranges from the functional to the bizarre,' he says. 'The exhibition's a chance for me to make totally crazy things.'

*Peter Ting's exhibition runs from February 13-25 at Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1, tel (0171) 499 2823.*

Head for fashion:  
Stephen Jones' fantasy creation



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