

CAFÉ GALLERY'S latest project, courtesy of Andrew Kötting and Mark Lythgoe, experiments with our sensory input. 'Mapping Perception' opened yesterday, and is a video installation centred around Eden, Kötting's daughter.

Eden has a rare genetic disorder - Jaubert Syndrome - which causes several neurological complications. Eden has consistently defied the medical prognosis at the time of her birth 14 years ago - though her disorder has not been as disastrous as predicted, it affects the way she perceives the world.

The show is the result of a unique science / art collaboration in association with the Sciart Consortium Production Award and hopes to break out of the limits of normal human perception, or 'the castle of the five senses'.

Through the investigation of brain malfunction the limits of perception are used to examine our understanding of mind / body interaction. Eden herself participates as 'both a catalyst and a cypher for a more general investigation into how we see the world and perceive difference'.

A local artist and filmmaker from the Pepys Estate, Andrew Kötting has lived and worked most of life in London. This exhibition sees a collaboration with Mark Lythgoe and Giles Lane to combine film and video with various environmental 'manipulations', to suggest how the world might be seen through Eden's eyes. I spoke with him about his intentions for the show. Kötting says he was inspired to create a major project involving Eden after he involved her in an experimental road movie. Kötting travelled with Eden and her grandmother around the coast of UK.

The trip proved inspirational, and embued Kötting with a passion to work with Eden again on a wider, more in-depth project. On meeting Lythgoe and discovering the Sciart Consortium and Production Award, it seemed he had found the ideal opportunity.

Lythgoe works with children at Great Ormond Street Hospital as a neurophysiologist, so Eden's condition is his territory. The exhibition is Kötting's attempt then, with the aid of neurophysiological expertise, to scientifically investigate Eden's world. It is a collaboration with her.

For four years, Eden has been the focus of much study and research, and the result is a highly intimate and involving show. It is also a simulation, kept as closely as possible to the facts. On entering the gallery, says Kötting, we are forced to question the way in which we perceive the world. All the senses are assaulted. Initially Kötting plays with the sonic (way we perceive sound). Then the way we process balance and sight. There is also a smell metered in the gallery - the smell



Eden in the park

of conception - from the moment of climax which resulted in Eden's conception. Kötting is the controversial director of the base, gritty and elemental film 'This Filthy Earth', in both this show and the film **K Ö T T I N G** demonstrates a comfort with, er, 'nature's way'.

It is inevitable some would recommend that such an incredibly personal smell stayed that way, rather

than being pumped through the air vents of a public space. Nonetheless, the gallery smell is a reconstruction of how the room smelled at that moment fourteen years ago.

The gallery smell is a reconstruction of how the room smelled at that moment fourteen years ago

Eden's own contribution to the gallery consists of her diaries displayed from school. The inclusion of these and other things is to show how much she has progressed in the face of consider-

able doubts. Eden's shoes and nail clipings are 'hidden' in the gallery, as testament to key moments in her life, such as learning to walk.

Eden's work has been displayed in the gallery before and will be again in the forthcoming open exhibition. Give Kötting's work the benefit of the doubt - it's certainly an unusual use of this purpose-built space. Kötting himself stresses that though initially there seems to be 'not much going on' in the space, you need to spend time there; 'It's a metaphor for scientific enquiry - the longer you spend in the space looking, the more things slowly present themselves to you, and the more you find out...'

Until Nov 3rd. Artist's talk Sunday Oct 27th at 3pm. Contact Café Gallery Projects on 7237 1230.

Kötting also features in the line up for 'Painting with Lights 2'. This is a programme of contemporary experimental and animated short films. Sunday Oct 13th 5-8pm.



10th October 2002