



# It's art about face...



Favourite: painter Gillian Carnegie is tipped to win the Turner

## Turner Prize shock: judges pick a painter for the shortlist



Blossoming talent: contender Carnegie's 2001 oil-on-board work Fleurs de huile

**T**HIS YEAR'S Turner Prize shortlist contains a big surprise: one of the contenders is a painter.

Among the four artists being named today at Tate Modern is Gillian Carnegie.

While her rivals for the prize boast works including bus stops from Auschwitz, a bicycle made from a chair, and glitter-covered underpants, the 34-year-old Londoner's fortes are landscapes, portraits and still life. She was today installed as bookies' favourite to win

**BY LUKE LEITCH**  
Arts Reporter

the £25,000 prize, with Ladbroke's offering odds of 11/10. Darren Almond was second favourite at 3/1, with Simon Starling at 7/2 and Jim Lambie a 4/1 outsider.

Carnegie's work featured in Days Like These, Tate's show of the best of new British art two years ago.

The judges say her work explores the "fundamental properties of painting". It includes Black Square, a seemingly all-black painting

which on closer inspection reveals a woodland landscape in subtly different tones. She has also exhibited a large painting of a bottom.

Glaswegian Lambie, 41, is the oldest artist shortlisted this year and is best known for his psychedelic floor pieces made of multicoloured gaffer tape.

He is influenced by his work as a DJ and musician; in 2002 he exhibited 11 multicoloured speakers entitled She's Lost Control.

Other works include a pair of pants covered in red glitter. He has said: "I start

off with a very simple idea then build on that. In musical terms, it's like having a strong bass line [that you can] improvise on top of."

Even more radical is the work of Wigan-born Almond, 34, who exhibited at the Royal Academy's notorious art show Sensation! In 1999 he travelled to Auschwitz, borrowed the bus stops — in exchange for exact replicas — and put them in the RA.

Sir Roy Strong, the former director of the Victoria & Albert Museum who has confessed to deploring much modern conceptual art,

called Almond's works "stupendous".

Starling was once described by the Sunday Times as a "nutty professor". The Epsom-born 38-year-old calls his work "associative collage". He takes everyday objects, pulls them apart, then reconstructs them as entirely different artefacts.

He has said: "Of course I like the work to be amusing on one level but it is a serious business on another." The judging panel is chaired by Tate Director Sir Nicholas Serota and includes The Art Newspaper's Louisa Buck.

Sir Nicholas said: "The shortlist shows the extraordinary depth in British art."

The nominated artists will choose a selection of their work to go on show at the Tate Britain from 18 October. The £25,000 winner will be announced on 5 December.

● Sir John Tusa has told the arts world to stop apologising for itself. The Barbican's managing director told the Royal Academy: "We should reject attempts to judge what we do by criticisms of the social make-up of audiences."

## ... as RA landscapes make way for terror teddy

**BY LUKE LEITCH**

IT is Britain's most venerable arts institution, known for its catalogue of eminent members — including founder Sir Joshua Reynolds.

But the surprise star of the show when the Royal Academy this afternoon unveiled its summer exhibition was a murderous-looking, heavily armed, sabre-tooth teddy bear.

The sculpture by academician David Mach, a Turner Prize nominee in 1988, is one of his Don't Give A F\*\*\* Bears, which he says are "an antidote to the Care Bears".



Alex Lentati

urethane Jelly Babies and works by other artists including Michael Craig-Martin, Anthony Caro, Chuck Close

traits for the show, lifesize pictures of a man standing.

Marc Quinn, who will unveil his Fourth Plinth



sculpture of a woman who has been blind from birth and Ralph Ball has created a sadly deformed stack of chairs.

institution claims is the "world's largest open contemporary art exhibition".

● The exhibition is open from

Extreme: David Mach's Don't Give A F\*\*\* Bear, Ralph Ball's deformed stack of chairs and, right, Mauro Peruchetti's giant Jelly Babies

