Hi Everybody!

And welcome to another issue of Void Comix! Arty here again, and I’m very excited this issue because we’re featuring work by Simon Starling.

He’s been nominated for this year’s Turner Prize and he’s got an exhibition on right here at Void! Who knows, by the time you read this he might already have won it! The Turner Prize was established in 1984, and is named after the painter Joseph Turner who lived and worked at the start of the 19th Century, around the time of the Battle of Trafalgar. The nominees for the prize are young artists who have impressed the judges with their work over the previous year. So well done to Simon for getting nominated, and good luck!

And for anyone who’s wondering, Void was started by a bunch of Derry’s artists calling themselves Derry’s Artists for Derry’s Art, or DADA for short. Which also happens to be the name of an art movement which began at the start of the Twentieth Century.

The gallery opened in January 2005, in the basement of the old City Shirt Factory, and you’ll be able to see loads of exhibitions of fabby contemporary art here!
PHEW! I'VE JUST SEEN SIMON STARLING'S C.A.M. AT VOID... WHAT A SCORCHER!

MUM'S ALWAYS MOANING ABOUT BEING COLD. SHE'D LOVE A NICE NEW RADIATOR.

TOO EASY!

MUM HARDLY EVER USES THESE PLATES - THEY'LL MAKE A GREAT CACTUS RADIATOR.

YEAH! AND IT'LL BE A PIECE OF ART, TOO!
JUST A FEW DROPS OF GLUE...

HMMM... THIS ART LARK IS TRICKIER THAN YOU'D THINK...

SPLURT!!

BAH!! THIS OLD BOILER WILL NEVER GET THINGS HOT ENOUGH!

A BIT OF HOSEPIPE AND A SLAP OF PAINT - PERFECT!

CLONK! CLANK!
I’ll use Dad’s car, like Simon did in Kakteenhaus.

Off to take my pride and joy to the shiniest car competition!

Glatter! Honk!

Why won’t my baby start?

Pat! Pat!

Ah! That’s better!

Vroom!

Rumble!

Continued in two pages’ time!
Simon Starling was born in Epsom, England, but is now based in Glasgow (where he studied for the degree of Master of Fine Art) and Berlin. His work often looks at the transformation of one object into another, with the process itself as much a part of the work of art as the end product.

The exhibition on at Void is called “C.A.M.”. The title refers to the process that cacti use to help them to survive in arid climates which is known as “Crassulacean Acid Metabolism”! Phew! The work involved the casting and installation of bizarre cactus-shaped radiators to heat the gallery. “C.A.M.” was also inspired by South African cable thieves, who cut down valuable overhead cables to melt down and recast for scrap. And a lot of it is believed to end up being bought back by the cable companies, who turn it back into cables!

Simon has used cacti in a few of his other works
too. For “Tabernas Desert Run” he drove a hydrogen-powered bicycle across the Spanish desert, and painted a watercolour of a cactus with what came out of the bike’s exhaust pipe - which was water! And for “Kakteenhaus” he transported a cactus from the Tabernas Desert to a gallery in Germany in a car. There he took the car’s engine out and put it in the gallery where he ran it to keep the cactus warm. But the engine was still connected to the car by all its pipes and cables, and the car was parked outside! I hope he didn’t get clamped!

“Tabernas Desert Run” is part of Simon’s installation for the Turner Prize at Tate Britain, as well as a couple of other pieces. There’s “One Ton, II 2005”, where Simon has taken the tiny amount of platinum that is produced from one ton of ore to make 5 platinum prints, and another piece where he dismantled a large shed in Germany, rebuilt it as a boat, paddled it down the River Rhine, and then built it back into a shed. It’s called “Shedboatshed” of course! You’ll be able to find out if Simon’s won the Turner Prize on December 5th, when the winner is announced.
SPLADOOSH!!
Will somebody please pass me a bathrobe before these bubbles disappear?

Poot!

Ooer. Things have got even hotter than I expected!

Gnash! Fume! Rant!!

Ho ho. What a drip!
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
Have a good look at Picture 1. Picture 2 contains fifteen differences! Can you spot them all?

Looking for answers?...
ARTY WORD SEARCH

FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS HIDDEN IN THE GRID. THEY MAY BE WRITTEN BACKWARDS, FORWARDS, UP & DOWN AND DIAGONALLY; SO YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY!

CRASSULACEAN
CACTUS
STARLING
SHEDBOATSHED
TURNER
RADIATOR
DESERT
WATER
VOID
TABERNAS
ICYCLE
PLATINUM
KAKTEENHAUS
GLASGOW
RHINE

JUST FOR FUN!
QUESTIONS INSPIRED BY SIMON'S WORK

What would you make a radiator in the shape of?
Are there any plants in Derry that would make good sculptures?
What could you turn into a boat to sail down the Foyle?
Are there any other things you could turn into something else, and back again?
And if you did, what would you call your work of art?

... See our back cover.
Have you been scratching your head puzzling over the puzzles? Well, you can find all the answers in the next issue of **VOID COMIX** ... or by visiting:

www.voidcomix.co.uk

The next exhibition here at Void is by photographer Ursula Burke, and it opens on January 14th.

I can hardly wait to get snapping myself, and with Christmas on its way as well, I’m just about as excited as Santa in a mince pie shop!

*Merry Christmas everybody,*

*Arty*