

# REVIEW

## Neither Fish Nor Flesh

IMAGINE ASKING several artists from a part-time art course to organise their own exhibition. You wouldn't really expect greatness, would you? But when I was invited to view the work of arts students from Chelsea College of Art and Design I was pleasantly surprised.

Neither Fish Nor Flesh was an intriguing collaboration by 19 emerging artists with extremely diverse styles. Using a wide range of materials – from compost,

sugar and pink paint to media and video installations – themes of absence, ancestry, corrupt new technology and treachery were addressed in extremely innovative ways.

Much of the work was thought-provoking and emotive. I was particularly impressed by the *Brown Skin Woman* in a mixed-media piece by Philomena Francis (pictured right). Utilising brown sugar, sugar cane and sugar sacks, Philomena managed

to say more about slavery, the sugar trade and femininity than many academic texts ever could. Lilian Igbinosun's installation, *(home) sickness*, cleverly used basic materials to beautifully portray themes of homesickness and displacement (tea, suspended links..you'd have to see it to understand!). Overall, an interesting show that displayed great promise. I wouldn't be surprised to see some of these artists featured in other shows very soon.

