



Angelic Rebels by Tessa Boffin, commissioned for 'Ecstatic Antibodies'

Life Drawing

'Ecstatic Antibodies' is a new exhibition showing at York's Impressions Art Gallery until March 10, when it goes on national tour. It is one element in a major multimedia arts project, combining video, installations, talks and a book of the same name (ed: Tessa Boffin & Sunil Gupta, Rivers Oram

Press, £8.95), which aims to challenge prevailing assumptions about the role of artists and cultural practitioners in tackling the Aids crisis.

The mainstream art world has tended to respond to the epidemic in two ways, firstly, raising money for medical research and voluntary organisations by selling established

artists' work; and secondly, creating art that expresses suffering, raises consciousness, is cathartic, transcends individual lives — because art is 'timeless and universal'.

The project's organisers wanted to produce art which could intervene in the social construction of the Aids crisis in a more direct way, to counteract the images we all receive from government and mainstream media campaigns.©