

10/3/93

SCRAPPY ART

PROBABLY the best art show in London just now, and certainly one of the more off-beat. Drop everything and see it!

Simon Faithfull uses wrecked, twisted, worn-out man-made objects which no-one wants and even try to avoid seeing.

He walks around London's east end or the beach picking up things like bicycle chains, old footballs, rusted metal tools, old car tyres and takes them home to magically transform them into sculpture.

These artworks are pregnant with double meanings. The history of the original object remains, while at the same time it is shown in a completely new context. The purely mechanical suddenly seethes with life.

Hanging overhead in the Block's big space are a number of "planets".

The largest sphere, a kind of Jupiter, is a black rubbery mass, alive with movement (pictured).



Insect-like creatures, made from lightbulb filaments creep around this planet.

Faithfull often plays with the idea of a "host" planet or environment which is home for another species.

Next to the dark planet hangs a light, crystalline fantasy made of pieces of laminated windscreen sewn together with wire.

Equally fascinating are the large and small fish. Some are made from spark-plugs, others

from nails and worn-out pieces of rusty metal tools or even from keys.

A large *Salt-fish* is assembled entirely from things discovered on a beach in Devon including a rusty aerosol can, coach bolts from a boat, and a weathered wood mount.

All of Faithfull's menagerie stare eerily at us, whether they are fish, fowl or mammals.

The most amazing perhaps, is the *Carrion Crow*, constructed out of a folding umbrella and an electrical egg-beater.

Note: Creative Block is a gallery, theatre, studio and office space using some of the thousands of wasted spaces in London.

CORINNA GILBERT

CREATIVE BLOCK
172 Great Portland Street, W1
Tel: 071 226 0211
Until March 13
Open 11.30am-
6.30pm
Admission free.

ART
R
REVIEW