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# THE FRAGILITY OF THINGS

# MIKE STUBBS

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FERENS ART GALLERY, HULL 3RD OCTOBER-1ST NOVEMBER 1987



**INVITATION TO A PREVIEW**

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FUNDED BY  
Link of Shire & Hambrook  
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# THE FRAGILITY OF THINGS

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An Installation at FERENS ART GALLERY, HULL  
3 October – 1 November 1987

You are invited to a preview of this work on FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER  
at 7.30 p.m.

Paybar and Food.

Mon – Sat 10 – 5 Sun 1.30 – 4.30  
Cafe daily 10.30 – 4.00

ADMISSION FREE

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Last year over 5000 people died on Britains roads. I might have been one of them. It was last year that I was involved in a serious accident on the motorway. I was lucky to have escaped physically unscathed, however this event radically altered my outlook on life.

I had grown up inventing races and crashes for toy cars, plastered my bedroom wall with images of racing cars and motorbikes. I had dreamt of sports cars. These childhood obsessions now seem ridiculous. The morning of the accident I had been driving on the motorway; warm, listening to a chat show on the radio, comfortable and secure. A moment later I was stationery, traffic rushing past, rain was pouring onto my face, the windscreen lay across my lap in pieces. I was surprised to find my legs joined to my torso, I expected to find blood gushing from somewhere. The roof pillar had been neatly cut through, I was shocked to see how easily the metal had been torn and twisted. I saw a woman bleeding from the ear and wondered.

The deceptive security of the modern motor car interior. A myth created in a bid to sell us more shiny new things. Car advertisements don't carry government health warnings. But like our cars it is only when something goes wrong that we become aware of our fragility and mortality.

People 'mature' as adults in one sense when they mature sexually. Society recognizes them as adults at 18 years old etc. but perhaps a truer maturity, a sense of the value of life comes later, when most people become aware of the reality of death – usually their own.

**Mike Stubbs**

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# MIKE STUBBS

Mike Stubbs gave up his desire to race motorcycles and the chance to work spraying custom paint, when he accepted a place at Cardiff Art College to study mixed media fine art. Later he studied at the Royal College of Art and has now moved to Hull to take up the fellowship in Time Based Arts at Humberside College of Higher Education. His work is diverse, including performance, film, installation, video and theatre. Films and Video have been shown nationally and internationally. Most recently MAN ACT (a video looking at stereotyped images of male sexuality, based on the performance of the same name) was invited to the Berlin Film Festival. CONTORTIONS (a film dealing with media representation of the unwaged) won first prize at the 1984 Celtic Film Festival. JUST LIKE EDDIE (a 16mm drama comparing 3 generations of a South Wales family's differing attitudes to the work ethic) is due to be completed this autumn.

The Fragility of Things was made and installed with the support of:

Hull City Council Engineers, Architects and Works Departments  
Humberside College of Higher Education  
Humberside Police  
Hull Windscreens  
Industrial Contracting Services  
Lincolnshire and Humberside Arts  
Willingham Car Spares, Hull

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