

Christoph Bergmann
Andreas von Weizsacker
William Jackson Gallery

Call it what you will, informed hunch or intuition, but I suspect that some of the most interesting contemporary work is coming from across the Channel, from artists who have something to say and are seeking new ways to say it – and I include both these German artists in this category. Both were former pupils and teaching assistants of Eduardo Paolozzi at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and have joined together in this intriguing show with the title 'Bodies, Wings and Paper Things'.

The elder and more established of the two is Andreas von Weizsacker, creator of the 'paper things'. He has spent the last six months studying handmade papermaking in Japan and it is with the resulting *Watermark* series that the excitement really begins! Three blue screens hang from ceiling to floor, each patterned with one or two pale white or midnight blue circles mediating the density of the fibres and changing colour in relation to the brightness of light. As

hangings they have an elegant super-tactile presence, and beyond that they convey a delightful spatial sensation of orbs on the move. On the walls is a set of Watermarks in light-boxes which ingeniously highlight both tonal and textural values including trails of seeming iridescence. *Collaged Cosmos* is the most dramatic: transversed by a strong triangle, with near-painterly wrinkles and whorls, it has a strong elemental, even Turner-esque flavour.

Christoph Bergmann is the 'bodies' man whose aim is to link our new gods of science and technology with the gods of the classical past. Witness *Himmelsleiter* (ladder to the sky) which seems at first to be simply an exact painted wooden version of a classical marble torso, complete with a standing ladder with wings. But, Hey Presto! The torso is hinged and can swing open, and the ladder can be folded into it to take on the anatomical look of a rib cage! His work is superbly crafted, ingenious and playful with a trompe l'oeil surprise effect – and it makes you think. And if you want a refresher view of the work and influences of these two artist's distinguished teacher, it can be seen at the Goethe Institut. (to June 22. *The Eduardo Paolozzi exhibition at the Goethe Institut will be reviewed next issue*) JANE NORRIE

Christoph Bergmann's wood and metal *Classical Knapsack* at William Jackson Gallery.
See review

