

THE HOT LIST

London's burning with creative talent, and ES has rounded up the top 50 bright young things. From dancers to designers, authors to architects, meet the new Brit pack

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Brightyoungthings

ART&DESIGN

PETER BREWIN, 26, AND WILL CRAWFORD, 26, DESIGN ENGINEERS

Why? The future looked bright for Peter and Will long before they began winning awards. Peter, whose interest in engineering stems from 'playing with Lego as a child', graduated in engineering from Cambridge. Will, who grew up in Fiji, Iraq, Singapore and Taiwan because of his father's job as a transport systems architect, was sponsored through university by the Ministry of Defence and studied mechanical engineering at Bristol and then at Berkeley in California. The pair met when they had desks next to each other on the industrial design engineering course at the Royal College of Art, and together they embarked on projects including poolside tiles that tell you when to apply more sunscreen and giant statues made of Fairy Liquid bottles, both of which won awards. It is their third project, however, that has won them the greatest acclaim. Their design for Concrete Canvas, a rapidly deployable hardened shelter that can be erected by someone with no training, requires only water and air for construction and is ready to use in 12 hours. Inspired by covering balloons in plaster, it has huge potential for use in emergency situations around the world. In search of funding, Peter and Will were turned away by the business know-alls on the BBC's *Dragons' Den* - but it was they who had the last laugh. Their design has since won ten awards, including the Saatchi & Saatchi Award for World Changing Ideas in 2005. Judge and self-proclaimed 'inventor of lateral thinking' Professor Edward de Bono, says of their design, 'The excellence of this is that it combines three elements of a good idea: simplicity, practicality and it fulfils a real need.' With their winnings, some private investment and a DTI grant, they have set up their own company, Crawford Brewin Ltd, to develop Concrete Canvas. **What's next?** The pair are setting up a production base in Northampton to build pre-production prototypes, followed by a year of field-testing before Concrete Canvas is put into production.

DOUGLAS WHITE, 27, SCULPTOR

Why? Douglas White's mission is to 'revive the obsolete and reanimate the decayed', which this graduate of the Ruskin and the Royal College of Art does with unexpectedly beautiful results. On a trip to Belize, he transformed discarded exploded lorry tyres into a 5m palm tree that now stands in Goodwood Sculpture Estate. 'Finding these things is just the start,' he explains. 'The processes I have to go through

to get them are often long and drawn-out. I have worked with borough councils in London to collect burnt-out recycling bins.' As a result of all this toil, he was shortlisted for the Jerwood Sculpture Prize and won second prize in the Man Drawing competition for a series of prints made from dirty mop heads on blotting paper. 'His work pulses with a weird energy,' exclaimed *Art Review* magazine, and pieces sell from £750 to £20,000. Douglas was brought up in London, boarding at St Paul's Boys' School, while his mother lived in South East London, and his father, a property developer, was based in New Zealand. Art was always his main focus, and Marcel Duchamp a big influence, although he always made sure he had time to play football. He now lives in Islington with his girlfriend and, when not working in his Hackney studio, hangs out with fellow artist Conrad Shawcross. **What's next?** A solo show including an apocalypse installation in a new East End gallery in the autumn. 'Most recently, I travelled to Leicester and persuaded a 75-year-old man to let me remove and preserve his patio door. An owl had flown into it and left a perfect imprint in the dust from its feathers.' Expect Douglas to do something unexpected with it for his next show.

SINTA TANTRA, 26, ARTIST

Why? Sinta Tantra is one of the Royal Academy's most lauded postgraduates, awarded the Paul Smith Fellowship, the Michael Moser award, the £8,000 Deutsche Bank Pyramid Award and most recently commended in the Mercury Art and Music Award for her wall installations incorporating



AOC: Vincent Lacovara, Daisy Froud, Geoff Shearcroft and Tom Coward