



Students' Art Checks into Hotel



Tricia Bryan shakes hands with Andrew Beale in the faculty Gallery

How many times has one stayed in a delightfully comfy hotel? The pillows are invitingly plumped, the shower a marvel of the power version of that fine invention, and the towels and personalised soap eminently nickable? And yet the décor is so often let down by the cheap reproductions of the same old boring impressionist 'masterpiece' or even worse the owner's Auntie's inept watercolours of the highlights of the locale. Surely they could do better, something a bit more, how shall we say, contemporary? Well now they can.

A fascinating cooperation has been set up between the Fine Art programme and a local hotel. The former Hatfield Lodge Hotel has been taken over by the family run chain Beales and will be known as the Hatfield Beales Hotel when it re-opens in August with a hike from the previous 3 star to 4 star rating. The concept of Andrew Beale the Managing Director of the company is to design a hotel fit for the 21st century with minimalist clean lines and guess what? Yup... original art on the walls. He contacted the faculty after being impressed by the works of art on sale

in a space rented by fine art students in the Hatfield Galleria With help (and very necessary contractual advice) from Judy Glasman and Marty St.James, two students Tricia Bryan and Sue Scott have taken a year out of their fine art studies to organise this project as well as put on art shows in the Galleria. They are also hopeful of attracting an Arts & Business Partnership award from the Arts Council to match the funding from industry.

The Hotel wants a piece of art for each of its 53 bedrooms and larger pieces for the foyer, bar and conference rooms. Beales will commission art from students in the 2nd and 3rd year (or part time equivalents) of the Fine and Applied Arts programmes. At the launch presentation 35 eager students turned up and more who couldn't make the meeting are interested in submitting work and as Beales are hoping to expand the number of bedrooms to 60 – there is scope for the project to be ongoing. The selection process will take place in just over a month's time and *Collage* will be there to record the results in the summer.