

What to do

Exquisitely crafted works go on show

Arts

by Emily Thwaite

PREMA Arts Centre, Uley, re-opens its doors in September following a short summer break. For the first art exhibition of the season, Prema offers a relatively minimalist body of work from Somerset-based artist Toni Davey and Gloucestershire artist Rayner Grant.

The exhibition runs from Saturday, September 13 to Saturday, October 25.

Toni Davey studied fine art at Hornsey College of Art and then went on to do a masters degree in sculpture at Chelsea College of Art.

She continued to work in London as an artist and visiting college lecturer. During this period, her experience as an architectural model-maker had a decisive influence on her thinking about sculpture. Toni has lived and worked in Somerset since 1984.

She explained: "Artists have always been concerned with conveying the illusion of three dimensions on to a two dimensional surface.

"I try to understand this transition through very controlled drawing or by physically reinventing the surface by cutting and manipulation.

"The idea of the flat plane appearing to come to life by moving from two dimensions into three while losing none of its original surface is a concept that fascinates me."

For Toni, faithfulness to the materials is of paramount importance to success and she is now working with paper – drawing, cutting, scoring, folding.

In Davey's work, the underlying structure of the grid is always present. The grid offers the means to retrace one's footsteps, to understand the journey, to allow forms to follow a



ABOVE: WORK by Rayner Grant AND RIGHT: WORK by Toni Davey

rule or sequence of changes that produce solutions which are pure, logical and visually beautiful, qualities that exist in nature.

Rayner Grant studied sculpture at Cheltenham and continues on his journey of discovery as an artist.

He lives on his family farm in Horsley and during the day works at Ruskin Mill on the centre's Woodland Management programme.

His artistic output experiments with a range of materials and styles, although he admits a particular fondness for construction-based woodwork (as

opposed to carving) and working with plaster and moulding.

He often makes work which is site-specific, but for his exhibition at Prema, he shows a range of moulded plaster spheres which investigate the negative and positive space within each piece – the microcosmic and the macrocosmic.

The work is exquisitely crafted and each delicate piece works as a sympathetic counterpoint to fellow exhibitor Toni Davey's work. Rayner Grant will also be running a course at Prema, for young people: Discovering Sculpture.

