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Artist To Set Up Ideas Forum In Edgware

If you find yourself pondering the relative merits of a painting or piece of sculpture you have already, all be it unwittingly, entered into the realms of conceptual art.

The controversial art form is more a forum for ideas than an aesthetic genre. To think is to have ideas, and conceptual art is, as its name suggests, all about ideas.

And unlikely as it may seem, deep in the Edgware heartland there is a man who is positively overflowing with ideas.

To those who know him, or the many who are in contact with him via the Internet, former Haberdashers' Aske's boy Jonathan FeBland, is a modern Renaissance man. Sitting in his Manor Park Crescent home, surrounded by his own paintings, Jonathan is mooting his big idea for Edgware. 'I want to change the name of Edgware to Edgware 2000. I find it an amusing idea, something grandiose that makes us proud of Edgware.'

The idea isn't meant to make an awful lot of sense, nor is it likely to get universal approval in the leafy, unassuming suburb, but it will make you think, he says.

Visual art, and the art of ideas are just two of Jonathan's creative outlets and by no means his most lucrative. He is also a writer and successful musician.

And now there is Edgware 2000, which Jonathan and four fellow artists are planning to turn into a conceptual art festival. If it succeeds, Edgware 2000 would give residents a new forum for broadcasting ideas.

Jonathan says he targeted Edgware partly because it's where he lives and partly because he wanted to inspire its residents. 'There are a lot of very well-educated people in Edgware but, apart from the library, there is nothing.'

09:30 Thursday 18th May 2000



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