

Going out Arts

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This likeable young geek will go far

COMEDY

IVO GRAHAM

Soho Theatre, W1

★★★★☆

BRUCE DESSAU

WINNERS of the Edinburgh Fringe's So You Think You're Funny award invariably go on to big things. Peter Kay and Lee Mack are past victors and 2009 champion Ivo Graham could well join those illustrious ranks.

But not just yet. His debut show *Binoculars* is all about potential. The posh, boyish 23-year-old extracts plenty of humour, albeit sometimes clichéd, out of his youth. When he talks about getting speeding tickets it is hard to believe he is even old enough to drive. He embraces his geekdom.

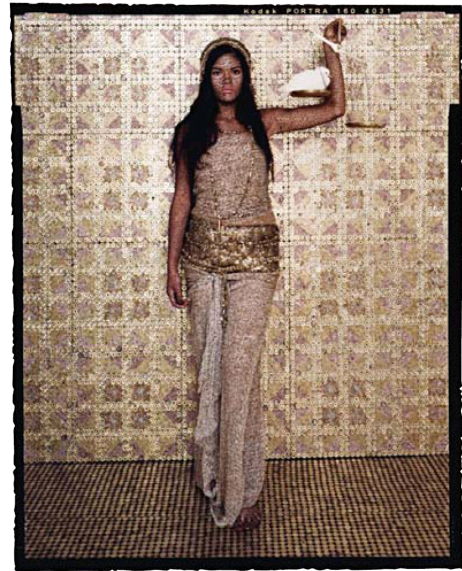
It is not every day you hear gags about Fibonacci numbers.

The theme of the show is Graham's coming-of-age, which involves nerdy graphs of his "kisstory" rather than lurid tales of Russell Brand-style

excess. There is a stumbly charm as he recalls a rare romantic triumph at tennis camp: "Her knees went as weak as her backhand."

His Hugh Grant-ish self-mocking modesty is shamelessly foregrounded but it works. There is clearly a smart brain operating here, as one would expect from someone who attended Eton and Oxford. If the comedy doesn't pan out he can always settle for the consolation prize of a post in the Cabinet.

■ *Until tomorrow (020 7478 0100, sohotheatre.com)*



Casing point: Moroccan artist Lalla Essaydi's *Bullets Revisited*, 2012

The world takes centre stage

ART FAIR

ART14: ART & THE CITY
Olympia Grand Hall, W14

★★★★☆

SUE STEWARD

THE art fair season is upon us, and Art14 London at Olympia is spreading an exciting internationalist buzz with gallerists, artists and collectors from 40 countries.

The rich spectrum of works covers politics and aesthetics, decorative and sometimes clichéd images; sculptures and installations are surprisingly minimal. From Benin, West Africa, Romuald Hazoumè's *Rat Singer*: Second only to God! is a profound multi-media installation on recent drownings in Africa, while the South African Justin Dingwall photographs

the albino model Thando Hopa to inspire others.

History and politics infiltrate many exhibits by Chinese, Korean and Indonesian artists and most make references to classical paintings.

The UK has had a crush recently for Middle Eastern art, which has a powerful representative in Lalla Essaydi, a Moroccan based in New York. Her sensual tableaux of Moroccan women's lives conceal complex metaphors; for *Bullets Revisited* she hammered bullet casings into walls and clothes.

For more local galleries, many similarities carry national elements; quite different is the Leipzig Gallery's scientific abstract made with infected bacteria. After viewing 180 galleries, pleasure extends to the Saatchi pop-up bookstore and pitstop cafés.

■ *Until Sunday (artfairslondon.com)*

Critic's choice Exhibitions

George Condo
Skarstedt Gallery, W1. Until April 5 (020 7499 5200, skarstedt.com);
Simon Lee Gallery, W1. Until March 22 (020 7491 0100, simonleegallery.com)
Two stirring shows by the American painter, right.

Hans Arp
Hauser & Wirth, W1. Until tomorrow (020 7287 2300, hauserwirth.com)
The modernist sculptor's work is given a jolt by a novel presentation alongside his poetry and sculptures. Last chance.

Hannah Höch
Whitechapel Gallery, E1. Until March 23 (020 7522 7888, whitechapelgallery.org)
A Dada linchpin is finally given her due.



Höch created extraordinarily rich and beautifully judged collages.

James Turrell
Pace Gallery, W1. Until April 5 (020 3206 7600, pacegallery.com)
Four installations of slowly evolving and enveloping light and colour.

Richard Hamilton
Tate Modern, SE1. Until May 26 (020 7887 8888, tate.org.uk)
Obsessed with new technologies, Hamilton was a cerebral artist but this excellent show confirms his range and flair for visual delight, too.

Ben Luke

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Exhibitions

Your essential guide to exhibitions at London art galleries and museums



Art14: Art & the City

Brian Sewell on The Great War in Portraits

Art14: Art & the City

Strange Beauty: Masters of the German Renaissance

Two George Condo shows reviewed by Ben Luke

<http://www.standard.co.uk/goingout/exhibitions/art14-art--the-city-olympia-grand-hall--exhibition-review-9159443.html>

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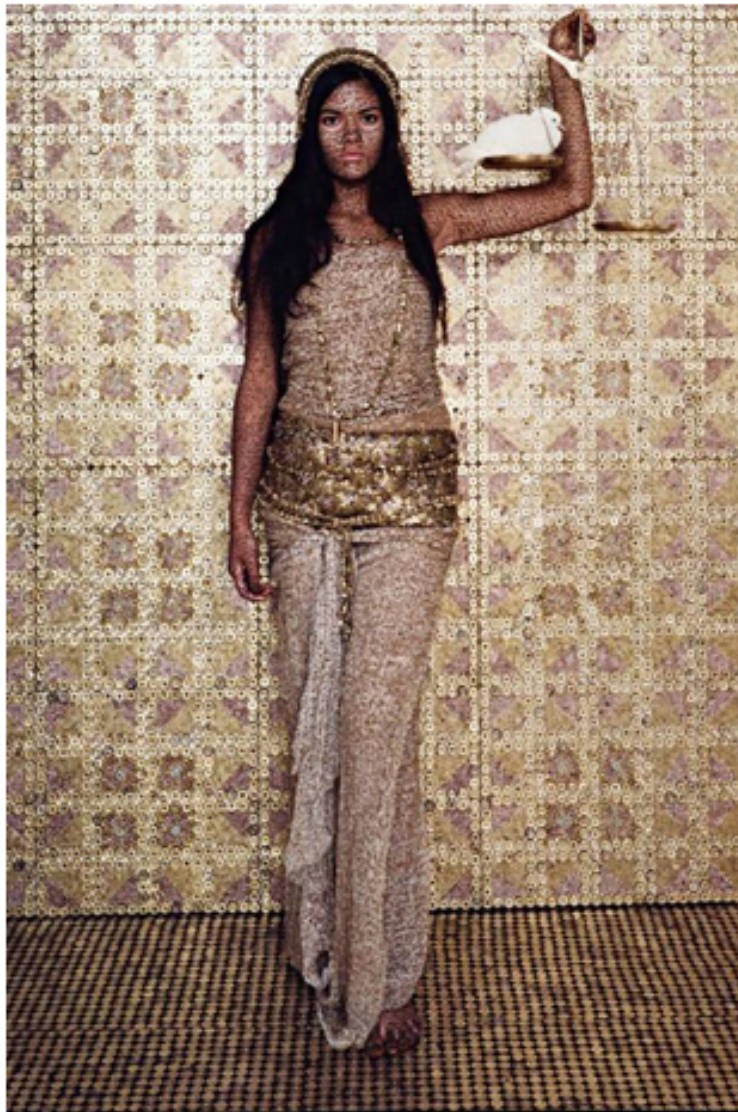
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Art14: Art & the City, Olympia Grand Hall - exhibition review

Art14 London is spreading an exciting internationalist buzz with gallerists, artists and collectors from 40 countries



Ceasing point: Moroccan artist Lella Essaydi's *Bullets Revisited*, 2012 (Picture: Courtesy of Keshya Hildebrand)

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SUE STEWARD



Critic Rating



Reader Rating



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Until Sun Mar 2 (artfairslondon.com)



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