

Ten artists in the frame for £65,000 prize fund



By Nick Hackworth

THE SHORTLIST for Beck's Futures, the richest art awards in Britain, was announced today. In stark contrast to the Turner Prize, awarded to Martin Creed for an empty room in which the lights go on and off, most of the work contending for the £65,000 of Beck's prize money can be hung on your wall, or at least attached to it.

The shortlist includes four painters, three film and video artists, one photographer, one sculptor and one artist working in multimedia.

Philip Dodd, director of the Institute of Contemporary Art, believes "all the artists shortlisted have a direct interest in what it's like to be alive here and now".

Up for the prize, subtitled Tomorrow's Talent Today, are the youngest artist ever shortlisted,



Nick Relph, aged 22, and the oldest, Tom Wood, 51. Relph's partner, Oliver Payne has been shortlisted alongside him. The pair specialise in films that take sardonic swipes at urban and suburban life.

Wood, an Irishman living in Liverpool, had taken photographs for 25 years before being "discovered". His simple, compelling and often beautiful photographs focus on everyday life, from scenes of debauchery in

Liverpool night clubs to shots of girls and grannies on buses. After a year in which, for the first time ever, the Turner Prize nominees did not include a painter, the presence of so many in the Beck's shortlist is a consolation. Those, however, who like their paintings elegant and understated may not be so happy.

Bold images culled from contemporary culture and glaring colours seems to be the order of the day in the work of Kirsten Glass, Neil Rummig and Dan Perfect, in whose works cartoon figures float in fields of horizontal stripes of colour.

The winner will be announced on 23 April 2002 at the ICA where the works will be on display from 29 March to 5 May. Each of the 10 shortlisted artists will receive £4,000 and the winner a further £20,000. Selected student filmmakers will share £5,000.

Shortlisted: Liverpool Bus, New Brighton by Tom Wood and, top right, The Adventure Is Over And It's Time To Head Home by Dan Perfect

Divers fail to find missing City worker

By Claire Hu

POLICE divers have failed to find any clues to the disappearance of a City worker who went missing after an office Christmas party.

Divers spent two days combing St Katherine's Dock, where Chris Boyle, 21, was last seen crossing a bridge.

Mr Boyle, who worked as a temp for Citibank, has been missing since leaving the Aquarium Restaurant at the dock "the worse for drink".

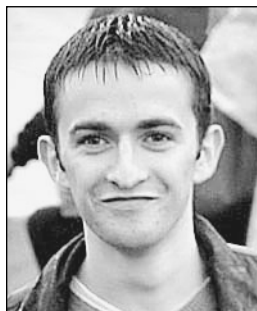
He has not contacted his family or accessed his bank account since his disappearance in the early hours last Friday.

His father, Noel Boyle, 51, who lives in County Down, Northern Ireland, said: "We are completely distraught. Yesterday we feared the worst and thought he would be pulled out of the water but now we have hope he is out there somewhere."

"I think the police thought he was in the water but now they are exploring other avenues. We are a close family and he is the most unlikely person not to keep in touch."

Last night Noel Boyle travelled to London to join other members of the family searching for his son. There were fears that Mr Boyle, described as a friendly, fun-loving person with no history of depression, had fallen into the water as he walked over the bridge. He was wearing a heavy trench-style overcoat.

Mr Boyle left after telling colleagues he was going to meet friends and has not been seen since. Pc Rupert Plum-



Chris Boyle: disappeared after an office Christmas party

mer, who helped to co-ordinate the underwater search, said all dock areas have been explored. He said: "We have not given up hope. There is still a strong possibility he may be in hospital under another name. We are looking at CCTV tapes of the night."

"We have looked in the immediate areas of the dock but can't completely cross out him falling into the water. He was in good spirits when he left the restaurant and was the worse the wear for drink."

"He kept in contact with his family and it is completely out of character for him to go missing."

The investigation is centring on the dock although the underwater search has finished.

Chris Boyle's brother, Tony, 27, said: "We are a very close family and if we don't hear from each other we get worried. The worst case scenario is he fell into the water and couldn't get out."

The Boyle family is offering a reward for information on his whereabouts. Contact Streatham missing persons unit on 020 8649 2239.

free

Free Philips Portable CD Player when you buy Philishave Quadra Action Mains Rechargeable HQ6890 Shaver £169 or Philishave Quadra Action Mains Rechargeable HQ6894 Shaver £189

Free Philips Portable Cassette Player when you buy a Philishave 3 Head Coolskin HQ6761 Shaver £110 or Philishave 2 Head Coolskin HQ673 Shaver £65

Boots

Available at most Boots Stores and at www.wellbeing.com from 14 November to 24 December 2001. While stocks last. Excludes ROI.