

The Cornishman

Why an ape-man's lurking in Penzance



■ Daryl Waller's *Two Crosses* exhibition.

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THERE'S an ape-man lurking in a building in the centre of Penzance – but there's no cause for concern.

The 'ape-man' is securely caged behind wire netting and, in any case, spends most of his days contentedly wielding a paint brush.

The creature is in fact Truro-born artist Daryl Waller and he is spending two weeks 'imprisoned' in a gloomy, smoke-filled room upstairs in the Goldfish Gallery in Chapel Street as part of his exhibition *Two Crosses*.

Members of the public are invited to fill in a form requesting personal details such as 'Pick a Love', 'Name your Fear', 'Something you Hate', 'Choose your Weapon' and 'Name a Dream'.

The ape-man is then given various selected forms and uses their content to create paintings which will be carefully

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documented at the close of the exhibition.

Waller takes as his starting point for the exhibition, which also includes paintings and sculpture, the quotation by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche – 'Man is a bridge between the apes and the Supermen; a laughing stock' – and gallery director Joseph Clarke admits that there are 'an awful lot of complex themes and ideas' behind the show.

However he says he is also surprised at how open people have been in reacting to the spectacle of the ape-man.

"Some people just come in and enjoy him as entertainment and if it brightens up their day, that's fine while others have clearly been a bit more disturbed," he

said. But many others have come in and filled in forms in a candid and confessional way.

"These people have become very engaged with the show and I don't think that they see his performance as sensationalist."

The Goldfish has hosted other controversial works including a 10ft high sculpture by Tim Shaw which was exhibited in Penzance and later attacked by a man carrying an iron bar at Goldfish's London show in Vyner Street.

Waller's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* performance can also be viewed online at www.ustream.tv/channel/the-ape-man and at the gallery's website, www.goldfishfineart.co.uk

They will continue until May 29 11am to 5pm daily (except Sundays); the rest of the show continues until June 7.