

Paul's Art World

The former Editor at Large of Art World magazine, sets out ten recommended contemporary art shows in London now. He currently writes freelance, including for Art Monthly, The Art Newspaper, Photomonitor, STATE and Border Crossings, and has a quirky weekly online column at FAD Art News - see www.fadwebsite.com/?s=carey-kent+.

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TOP TEN UP NOW

Amy Stephens: Patterns in the Chaos @ William Benington Gallery, 20 Arlington Way – Angel

To 29 March: www.williambenington.co.uk



Minke, 2103

Wandsworth provides a taster of Amy Stephens, but her work benefits from separate space, with which it can interact with intimations of the time she spends working with architects. This fuller range of Stephens' work includes copper tube drawings; a delicate balance of desire and control as a flocked wood rod courses tremblingly through Perspex; collages and paintings which imagine sculptural forms; a bronze cast of a birch branch (welded laboriously from eight separately-cast branchlets) and a whale's vertebrae which she found being used as a doorstep in Iceland. Stephens says the original bone was almost as heavy as the bronze: I love the textural contrast of inner density and outer shine, and the synecdochical way the bone stands in for the tail.