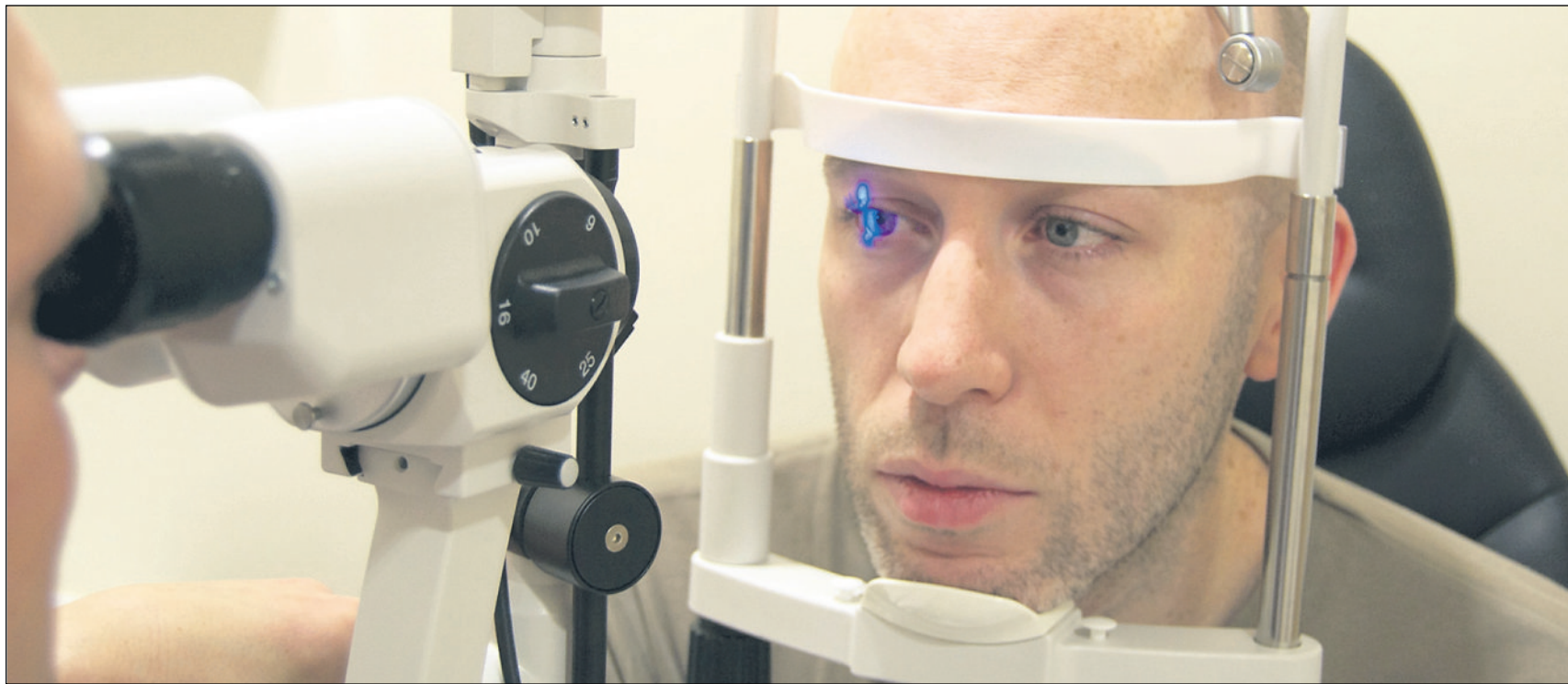


Is it a mistake to give £1,200 of public money to an artist whose work is full of errors?



But is it art? Michael Hanna's mistakes include receiving the wrong prescription (top picture) a misspelled tattoo (above left) and the wrong wash (above right)

MOST people's mistakes are unintentional — but not Michael Hanna, who has gone so far as to get a wrongly-spelled tattoo.

The artist (32) from Craigavon, Co Armagh, has been inspired to create an exhibition entitled Calculated Error after examining what is done on purpose in life and how people determine "intentionality".

His first major solo exhibition, which received £1,232 in grants from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, will be shown at the Golden Thread Gallery in Belfast city centre from February 2-23.

Through a series of objects, photographs and texts, the exhibition documents mistakes from

EXCLUSIVE BY AMANDA POOLE

the mistaken action to the repair, including a misspelled tattoo, the wrong prescription for glasses and losing his house keys to the bottom of the River Lagan.

Michael graduated with BA Honours in Sculpture from the Edinburgh College of Art in 2009 and is currently completing his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) at the University of Ulster.

"I submitted nine ideas to the Arts Council and they turned down five, but funded four," Michael explained. "Usually people applying for a £1,500 grant from the Support for Individual

Artists programme ask for photographic and computer equipment or canvasses, so I hear my ideas led to vigorous debate.

"I received £1,232 and I was pleased they were willing to provide funding."

Michael said he understands we are living in austere times, but feels the exhibition provides value for money and he welcomes debate on the matter.

"The project also examines funding cuts in the arts at a time of increased accountability for artists," he added. "I expect criticism to some extent, but generally there is less outcry about shocking art these days than there was say in the '90s."

Dr Suzanne Lyle, head of visual arts at the Arts Council, said the team was delighted to help Michael bring this "cutting-edge exhibition" to the Golden Thread.

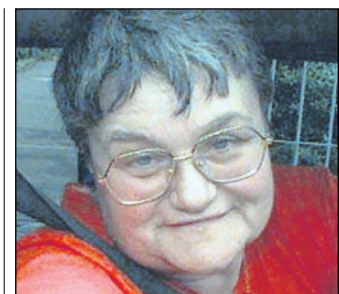
She added: "The experimental nature of the show will certainly capture the public's imagination and challenge perceptions about contemporary art."

"The Support for Individual Artists programme provides support to local artists, like Michael, to expand their professional horizons and further their career potential."

Michael will be giving a lunchtime talk on Saturday, February 4 at 1pm. To book a place please RSVP to info@gtgallery.co.uk

factfile

- The Arts Council funded:**
- 1. Misspelled tattoo — NECESSARY. Michael had to sign a disclaimer for proof he had asked for the error.**
 - 2. Turning white laundry pink by including red socks in the load. Michael turned to his mother for assistance with this task.**
 - 3. Wrong prescription from the optician for glasses.**
 - 4. Losing Keys. A locksmith was pre-booked for midnight on Sunday after Michael threw his keys in the Lagan.**



Bad driver: Maureen Rees

No joking ... women are best parkers

BY CHRIS STEVENSON

IT'S the stereotype that spawned countless jokes — women are the least proficient gender when it comes to parking a car.

Welsh cleaner Maureen Rees' name became a byword for bad driving after failing several driving tests on TV's Driving School. But a study suggests she is not the norm — and women should be handed the keys in a tight spot.

Car parks operator NCP analysed the parking of 450 drivers using CCTV records, looking at technique, accuracy and time taken to complete the manoeuvre. Out of a total of 20, women received an average of 13.4, compared with 12.3 for men.

Neil Beeson, a driving instructor, said: "The views need to change. A bit more caution is needed on the part of men, in the way female drivers have shown."



Recalled: Loyd Grossman sauces

Food and electricals top recalls

BY LAURA CHESTERS

BATCHES of a Loyd Grossman korma sauce, Beko freezers from Turkey and Pfizer's hormone replacement drugs were part of a record 291 products that had to be recalled in the UK last year — a 27% increase on 2010.

The recall figures report, from the City law firm Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, found faulty electrical and food products were the biggest culprits. When recall figures were first collated in 2003 there were only 143 product recalls in the UK during the year.

Stuart White, partner at RPC, said: "The increase this year could have been fed by high consumer demand for cheaper brands."

The report also revealed that pressure on manufacturers to "do more with less" may have affected food production standards in some cases.

He's 'testing the boundaries' Art funding 'begs questions'

ALISTAIR Wilson, MFA course director at the University of Ulster, said Michael is "testing boundaries" and fine art is an essential ingredient to the well-being of a healthy and balanced society.

"Michael is asking interesting, if difficult, questions of us all and not least the Arts Council, whose role as funding body and creative protagonist, the application process being a vital part of the final work, tests

FOR

both their nerve and resolve.

"We have a long history of producing artists capable of operating at the highest international level and I would be surprised if Michael did not see himself as part of this continuum."

STORMONT Culture and Arts DUP committee member David Hilditch said the fact Michael's project received funding "would beg a question or two".

"It sounds very strange. No doubt he has his own purpose behind his experimental art, but it would beg a question or two."

"I can understand why half of the suggestions were refused and I don't

AGAINST

see why some of the other ideas were accepted.

"It is a necessity for the Arts Council to look at this sort of thing, but the money would maybe be better spent on reimagining or other art projects."