

British Journal of Photography



EXPOSURE

Gautier Deblonde's portraits of contemporary

British artists are a curious blend of the spontaneous and carefully planned. Before he takes their picture Deblonde spends weeks with the artist quietly observing how they create their art but when it comes to actually taking the portrait, he claims to shoot almost off the cuff and according to what seems right at the time. The beauty, therefore, of *Artists* is that apart from all being shot in black-and-white, every picture is different.

There are closely cropped portraits, shot full of movement with the artist at work, location pictures, images where the art dominates the picture and the artist barely makes it into the frame. These aren't 'personality' portraits but pictures that establish the symbiotic relationship between the creator and the creation in a understated but highly effective manner. *Artist* is at the Focus Gallery in London (0171-242 7191) until 29 May, and the book published by Tate Gallery. Publishing costs £14.99. Pictured is Tracy Emin © Gautier Deblonde.

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