



Tea time
2009 ready made, collage.

NEW SCULPTURE 2005-2010

In the 70's and early 80's Dave Stephens gained an international reputation as a performance artist. His performances took the form of a unique brand of monologue which has been described as being highly influential on what later became known as "alternative comedy". In the 90's Stephens re-emerged as a sculptor using a highly distinctive style that incorporated every day objects into a world largely made up of wooden chips.

Recent sculpture by Dave Stephens has been typified by work that deals with the problem of surface. How we respond to the world being seen as a series of images that have been fragmented and reassembled. Whether the images are diagrammatic (as illustrated in the map sculptures) or representational, (as in the ones that use photography as a surface area), the viewer is constantly being asked to reassess their notions of reality and how they view and respond to it.



**Keep it under your hat.
2009 ready made and collage.**



Oyster 2009 ready made with collage



**Mad Hatter and his global balls 2009
ready made with collage**



Shelf 1. 2009
readymade and collage



Tea time 2009
ready made, collage.





Jug-gle 2009
readymade and collage.



A sculpture has its own life and dictates its shape and form when you create it. Its physical presence can actually overbalance so its structure is dependant on a series of foundations and props. The shapes and forms that group together to make up these sculptures are both random but necessary. The individual blocks are covered with maps that act as a visual route finder on the sculpture but also give the appearance of blood vessels and arteries. A relative Lilliputian world creating snakes and ladders for the eye to play with.

Stretching upwards the two towers bridge the gap between the sky and the earth. Like two adolescents the towers appear to tolerate each others existence whilst competing for height.

2 Towers (2007)

**wood, paper, glue, polystyrene,
Variable size (4' x 6' x 6')**





From the Tower of Babel to the Twin Towers man has sort to impose his domination on the natural world by his use of symbols. Following in the tradition of Brancusi, Navigator was an attempt to reach upward into the sky. A miserable failure at height led to different considerations to do with structure and foundations. The blue circle became a metaphor for liquid and only takes on solid form in its exhibition state.

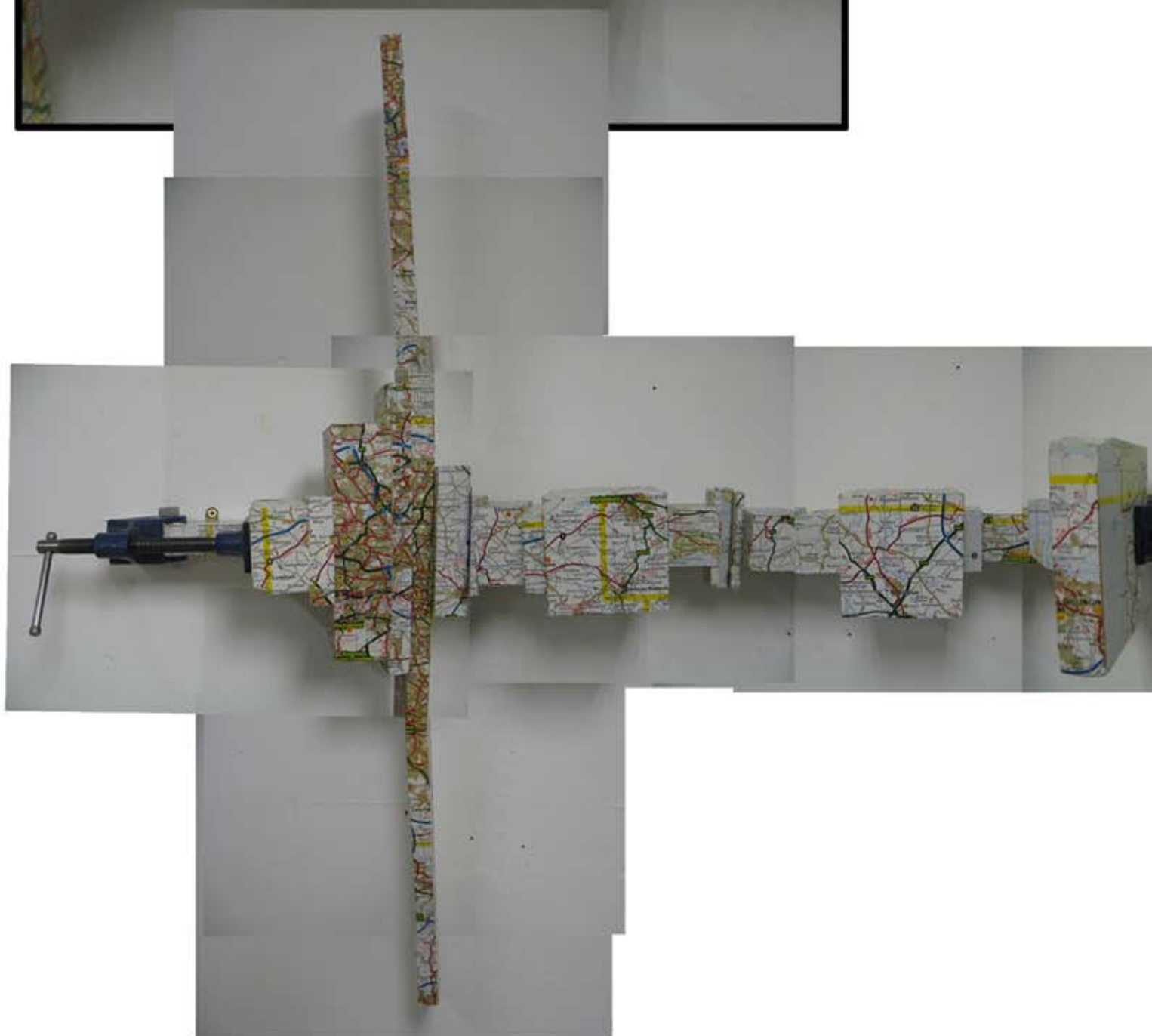
A video was made of the circle enfolding and then disappearing and is then shown as part of the final structure.



Navigator 2008

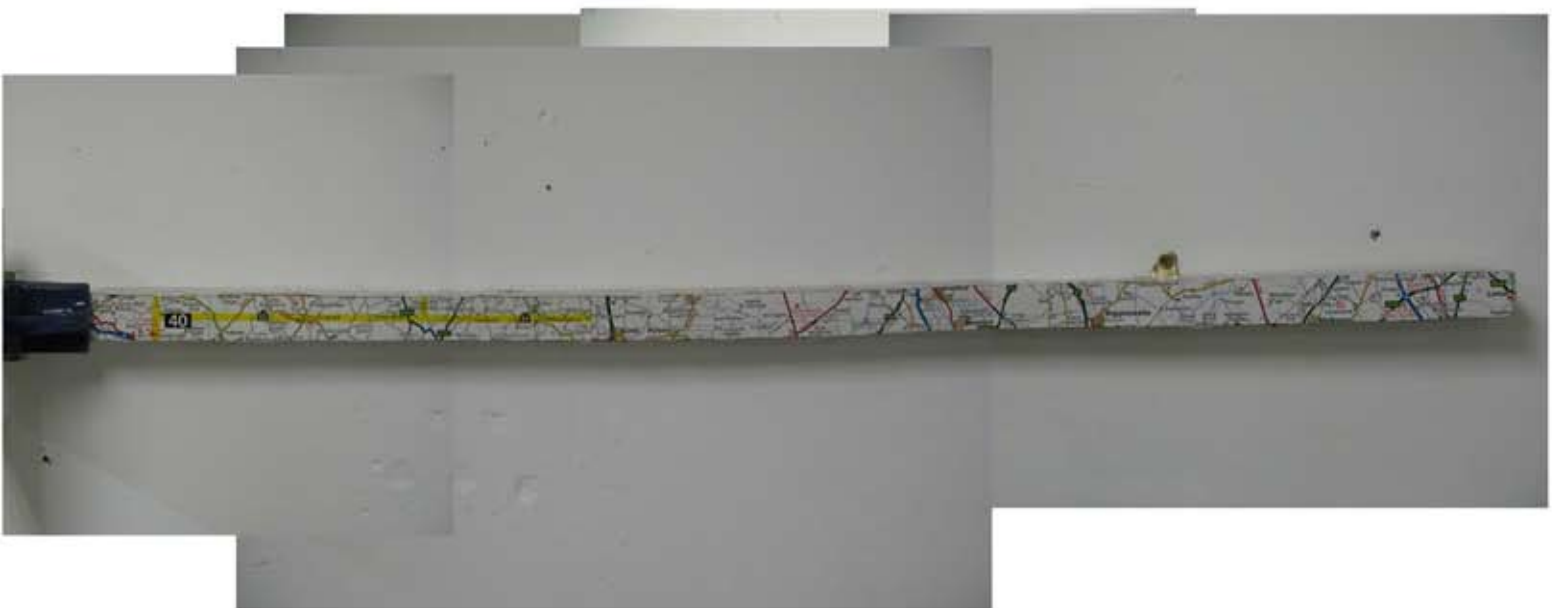
wood, synthetic fibre, paper
Variable size (approx 6'4" X 7' X 7')





This wall sculpture is made up of a series of wooden building blocks which have been covered in sections from maps. The maps are centred around London and move outward across Britain. The whole piece is held together with a vice which acts as a support and symbolically connects the sections of the sculpture. Conveying movement and giving the appearance of veins or roots, the maps act as a connection between the essentially geometrical structure of the whole piece.

Like a map leads you in different directions, there is an opposite directional pull between the horizontal and the vertical.



Route Finder. (2007)
wall piece wood, metal, paper
7' x 3' x 1'



Christmas 09 (after Beuys)

Surface pattern acts as a way of breaking up a surface. When repeated however it begins to work as a unifier. When I was a child I used to press my nose against billboard posters to see the dots at close quarters. Looking at the night sky, an impressionist painting or indeed a Pollack has the same effect. When used on a 3 dimensional object the patterned surface similarly breaks up as well as unifying the sculpture. Less is more, more or less.





Little, begging dog (after Pollock) 2006
wood, glue, paper
12" x 6" x 6"



The Unanswered Question 2008 ready made and collage



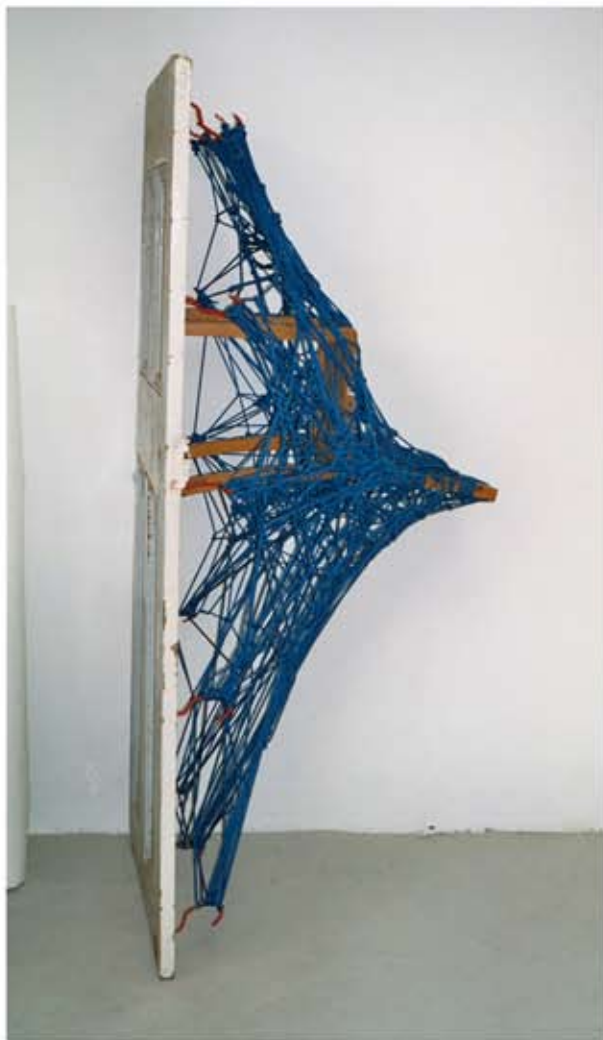
Performance Art Memoir No's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. 2007



Running Suit is a portable sculpture which can be wheeled around and taken to view other exhibitions. By doing so it becomes a temporary exhibit. The sculpture takes on the role of a gallery visitor as well as being an art object. It can change its form with the two constant components being a suit and a trolley. Visits to exhibitions can be announced or unannounced. Running Suit is essentially a non aggressive and peaceful visitor.



**Running Suit 2005
Photographic print
(420mm x 594mm) x 2**



Starburst 2005

Photographic print 420mm x 594mm

Doors of perception (lonely chair) 2005

Photographic print 420mm x 594mm



Electric Rope Man 2005 Photographic Triptych (420mm x 594mm) x 3



Doors of perception (the film) 2007.

Some of the rope sculptures were developed into stop motion animation. These films are often made with the intention of them being exhibited as part of sculptures.



**Rope Walk, Phoenix Art Gallery 2005,
Multi media performance piece (with film).**

Through a recent series of collaborations with Matt Page, as well as solo projects, Stephens has been exploring the possibilities of film. Experiments have looked at stop motion animation and real time film. These films often explore the production of an art work. The films take the form of an amorphous visual experience that records an object's creation.



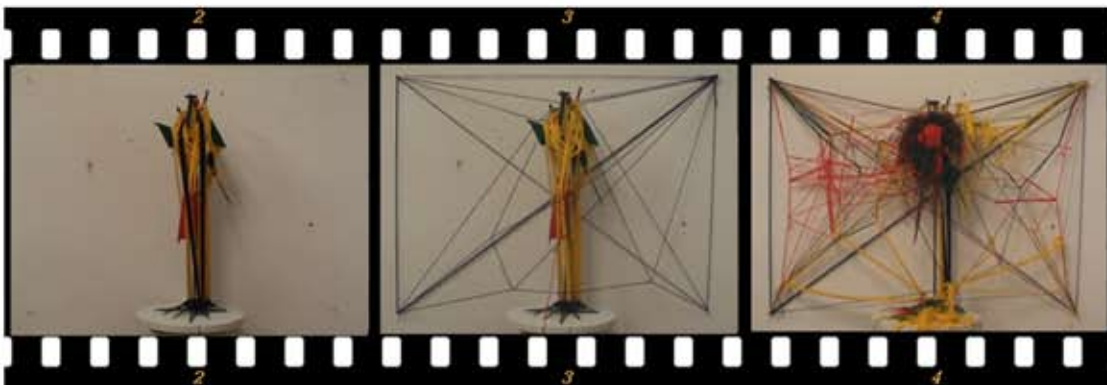
frames from My Day's Big Day out
(collaborative project with Matt Page)

The Mr Day projects are about a lonely headless figure who responds to the world by gaining knowledge through a series of quests. Recent quests have been done in partnership with the Brighton and Hove Museum Services and have been shot on location at Brighton and Hove Museums. Mr Day's visit to Hove Museum will be shown on a loop at the museum in 2010.



Explosive Drawing 2009 (solo project) photography, oil pastel, DVD.

In Explosive Drawing a photograph of a sculpture which is no longer in existence is used as a drawing surface and the subsequent film is a loop tape of a stop motion rendition of the drawing being created over the top of the original photograph. It is exhibited on a wall mounted DVD monitor with the original drawing exhibited next to it.



Woollen Candlestick 2003-2010 sculpture and animation

In Woollen Candlestick the sculpture is of welded metal and as such is pointy and aggressive. To soften this, wool has been used to wrap up the surfaces. The strands were then cut away and the process was recorded. The film and sculpture will now be shown together.

BIOGRAPHY.

Born 1953 Cardiff.

Group Exhibitions 2007 "Pause" Phoenix Art Gallery, Brighton.
2004 "Culture" Phoenix Art Gallery, Brighton.
2002 "All creatures great and small"
Hereford Museum and Art Gallery.
2000 "Conceptual Interiors"
Beatrice Royal Art Gallery, Southampton.
2000 Gallery 100, Brighton.
1999 Brighton Festival Sculpture Trail.
1999 "Fiveways Artists" University of Brighton Gallery.
1998 Economist Building, London.
1997 "Short Life" The Old Lead Works, Bristol.
1996 Gallery 45, Brighton.
1996 "On the Level" Phoenix Art Gallery, Brighton.
1990 Amnesty International, University of Coventry Gallery.
1988 "Sculpture in the Park", Basildon.
1976 New Contemporaries, Acme Gallery, London
1973 Northern Young Contemporaries.

Video Presentations:

2007 "Mr Day's Big Day Out" Phoenix Art Gallery.
(collaboration with Matt Brownsword)
2007 3 films triptych, Phoenix Art Gallery.
(collaboration with Matt Brownsword)
2003 "suit" LIFEWORKART, BALTIC GALLERY, GATESHEAD.
1980 "When the lights go out", Gina Show, Cable TV, Canada.
1984 "The Tough of the Track", video pilot (Channel 4).

Solo Exhibitions:

2002 Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham
2002 Alfred East Art Gallery, Kettering.
2001 Queens Park Art Centre, Aylesbury.
1999 Mindshare, The Strand, London.
1998 LAING GALLERY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
1998 Sutton House Gallery, London.
1998 Dartington Arts, Totnes, Devon.
1998 Worthing Museum.
1998 Ashford Library Gallery.
1998 Loughborough College of Art.
1997 Plymouth Arts Centre.
1997 Phoenix Art Gallery, Brighton.

Published Writing: 1979 "Walk on stage wearing a Devil's costume"
PS Magazine 2.
1981 "The smallest Zoo in the House" Zip Magazine.
1982 "Fleshly Painted Walls" Zip Magazine.

Performance work:

USA: New York: Franklin's Furnace, The Kitchen. **San Francisco:** Arts Institute, Berkley University, The Deaf Club, The Farm, Intersection, San Francisco University. **BELGIUM: Antwerp:** International Performance Festival, Café Cartoons, Sphinx Club, Wilryck University, **Brussels:** University, **Gent:** PROKA. **CANADA: Banff:** Peter Whyte Gallery. **London, Ontario:** Fanshaw College: **Montreal:** Vehicule. **Penticton:** Art Gallery. **Toronto:** A Space, Cabana Club, Harbourfront, Rumour, Scarborough University. **Vancouver:** Pumps, Western Front. **Winnipeg:** Arthur Street Gallery. **DENMARK: Aarhus:** Festival, University, Cellar Club, Huset, Marselisborg Gymnasium, Rosenteateret, Randers: Amstgymnasium. Viby: Amstgymnasium. **HOLLAND: Amsterdam:** Melkweg, Shaffy Theatre. **Gronningen:** Club Vera. **Rotterdam:** Exit Club. Twilite Club. **JUTLAND:** Herning High School. **UK: Basildon:** Towngate Theatre. **Bath:** Academy of Art, College of Higher Education. **Birmingham:** Arts Lab, College of Art, Digbeth Civic Hall, Star Club, Triangle, West Hill Park College. **Boston:** Blackfriars Art Centre. **Bournemouth:** Dorset Institute. **Bradford:** Festival, Library Theatre, Theatre in the Mill. **Brighton:** Festival, Polytechnic. **Cambridge:** Kettles Yard, Strawberry Fair, **Canterbury:** College of Art. **Cardiff:** Chapter Arts. **Colchester:** The Minories. **Coventry:** Hand in Heart, Lanchester Polytechnic. **Darlington:** Arts Centre. **Derby:** Longsdale College. **Dundee:** Duncan of Jordanstone College. **Durham:** New College. **Exeter:** College of Art, Spacex Gallery. **Falmouth:** School of Art. **Farnham:** West Surrey College of Art. **Glasgow:** Third Eye Centre. **Glastonbury:** Festival. **Gloucester:** College of Art. **Grantham:** Blue Man. **Harrogate:** Adelphi Hotel, Entertainment 83. **Hartlepool:** Cleveland College of Art. **Hebden Bridge:** Festival. **Ilkley:** College of Education. Kennington: Oval House Theatre. **Leeds:** Hadden Hall, Leeds Polytechnic, Swarthmore Centre, University, White Elephant Gallery. **Leicester:** Festival, Magazine. **Lincoln:** Bishop Grosseteste College. **Liverpool:** Academy Gallery, Liverpool Institute. **London:** B2 Gallery, Brunel University, Cabaret Futura, Central School of Art, Charles Peguy Centre, Comedy Store, Cricklewood Hotel, Diorama, Drill Hall, Goldsmiths College, Haringey Arts Centre, Haringey T.U. Centre, Heaven Club, Kings Head Theatre Club, Long House, LMC, Mercury Theatre, Old White Horse Brixton, Plough Inn Northolt, St Georges Medical School, Slammer Club, South Bank Polytechnic, Tom Allen Centre, Young Vic Festival. **Loughborough:** Old Mill. **Luton:** 33 Arts Centre, **Lyng:** Fairy Fair. **Manchester:** Birch Community Centre, De La Salle College, The Gallery, Hacienda, Manchester University. **Middlesbrough:** Cleveland Art Gallery, Cleveland College of Art. **Newcastle upon Tyne:** Basement Group, The University, **Northampton:** Old House at Home. **Norwich:** Wiveton Hall. **Nottingham:** Midland Group Gallery. **Oxford:** Festival. **Plymouth:** Arts Centre, College of Art, College of St Mark and St John. **Reading:** University. **St Andrews:** Crawford Art Centre. **St Donats:** Art Centre. **St Ives:** Festival. **Sunderland:** Art Centre, Polytechnic. **Swansea:** Fringe Festival, University. **Thurrock:** Technical College. **Totnes:** Dartington College, Hood Fair. **Trefores:** Polytechnic of Wales. **Wakefield:** Bretton Hall, Wakefield College of Art. **Walsall:** Furzebank Community Centre. **Winchester:** HatFair. **Wolverhampton:** Polytechnic. **Wye:** College of Agriculture. **York:** Art Centre, College of Art. Zap Club: **Brighton.**

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