

Gossip

Slotover voiceover

Founding an arts magazine and the whizzo Frieze art fair has nothing on fatherhood itself, and Matthew Slotover must be immensely proud of the performance of his 10-year old daughter Thea whose pretty and assured little voice is to be heard in Ryan Gander's Baloise prizewinning contribution to Art Statements, *Is this guilt in you too-(the study of a car in a field)* at the Gelink Gallery.

Diamonds are forever

Jeff Koons's *Green Diamond* on Gagosian's stand at Art Basel has made a considerable impression on Royal Academy Exhibitions Secretary Norman Rosenthal, who was heard declaring that it was better than anything he had seen at the Venice Biennale.



No cameras

What was Nicholas Berggruen of the eponymous art-dealing dynasty trying to hide when he told the photographer at the NetJets party that he and his companion went by the name of Mr and Mrs Smith?

Motti gets in a lather



Swiss artist Gianni Motti has been causing quite a stir at this fair. He has a mute pinstriped "Broker" behind bars in Art Unlimited ("he's an art broker who probably didn't buy a Gianni Motti", an Ars Futura representative confided, although in fact the fresh-faced captive is an art student fan of the artist) and there has also been keen controversy surrounding Motti's sculpture of a cake of soap which he claims is fashioned from the cosmetically-extracted fat of Silvio Berlusconi (on show at the the Ars Futura Stand, where it has sold for €15,000). In an arti-

cle published last week in the Zurich paper Die Weltwoche, in a bid to purge his reputation, the doctor responsible for the Italian Premier's liposuction challenged the artist to submit the piece to a DNA test to prove its origins. Motti, confident of the provenance of the piece agreed, and now the good doctor is wondering what to do next. Rest assured, dear reader, if tests are to be made, the outcome will be reported in The Art Newspaper.

Loving it at Lisson

Well at least someone is having a good fair—Lisson's Nicholas Logsdail said that the response on the opening day has been so extreme that it feels "as if the stand has been ravished."

FIAC team holds pow-wow in fair

Seen yesterday outside the Lisson Gallery stand: most of the organising board of France's leading contemporary art fair, FIAC, holding a meeting. They included its director Martin Bethenod and Jennifer Flay, its artistic director. "What is the secret of Art Basel's success?", they must have been asking themselves.

Miami collectors snap up Bock stage-set

Ranging the fair floor yesterday, collectors Don Mera and Jason Rubell were informed that their Miami competitors Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz had bought John Bock's stage-set for his performance in the Arsenale (supposedly sight unseen), an installation that had amply filled a towering space within the former rope factory. After a moment of disbelief, Don Rubell bounced back, exclaiming, "They're going to have to build another house!"

Sean Kelly's Bloomsday birthday

Rugby player and James Joyce scholar Sean Kelly is celebrating his 50th birthday tomorrow on 'Bloomsday', 16 June. In honour of the double occasion, he has organised the most literary and intimate of parties. The lucky few have already received their invitations (based on Berenice Abbott's portrait of Joyce); they have been encouraged to wear Emerald Isle green, and they must



attend a bus outside the Hotel Europe before being whisked to a mystery restaurant. A cake bearing the likeness of Joyce will be served along with the threatened sweetmeats, gizzards, entrails and kidneys (faintly urinous tang included of course) so famously beloved by Bloom himself. As they share several artists, not least Anthony Gormley and Gavin Turk, the only question is whether London's J.J. (Jay Jopling of White Cube) will be asked to celebrate Dublin's J.J.