

● **Fred Langford Edwards** Llandudno



Fred Langford Edwards turns what looks like documentary research - more than a thousand photographs of medical curiosities in an Ecuador museum - into an art of wonder. In this extensive photographic exhibition the artist turns his questioning eye to the

ways in which a museum selection can reflect attitudes towards nature and human nature. From this kind of distance the precisely labelled bottles (work pictured) and exotic icons show us that science can be some kind of art, magic or both. **RC Oriel Mostyn, to 3 Jun**



● **Roger Ballen** Manchester

All Roger Ballen photographs are black and white and square in format, but that's pretty much the only things that are straight about his work. A recent project saw him collaborate with the South African futuristic rap-rave crew Die Antwoord on a video titled *I Fink U Freaky* and now this representative exhibition covers three decades in which the American-born, South Africa-based artist has explored the outsider edges of society and the far reaches of his peculiarly distinctive imagination. Ballen's photographic surfaces might appear as distressed as his loner

● **Damien Hirst** London

There's been so much controversy-building from critics around this show that it's easy to forget it hasn't actually opened yet. Now, finally, when the Tate unveils Damien Hirst's big retrospective this week, you can judge for yourself what the fuss is about. Whether you care if he's art's answer to Bono and so now more famous for being rich than what he makes, Hirst is a written-in-stone part of recent art history. From *Freeze*, the seminal 1988 warehouse show of his Goldsmiths college gang to the front-page notoriety of *Sensation* nine years later, he transformed British art into something



fresh-faced, edgy and impossible to ignore. Here, iconic pieces such as the pickled shark, the flies that feed and breed only to be barbecued on an insect-o-cutor, and the room stacked with pharmaceutical drugs are

set to chart the impact of the works and the changes to culture that Hirst wrought. Wherever you stand on the Hirst debate, dull viewing this won't be. **ss Tate Modern, SE1, Wed to 9 Sep**