

## Exhibition of the week

### Bradford Bailey, Rutherford Chang

★★★★★

**Brown** King's Cross to Shoreditch

Though we may wish it never took place, George W Bush's 2003 State of the Union address, with its controversial line about Saddam Hussein's supposed nuclear ambitions, remains of such consequence that it will never be airbrushed from history. In 'Dead Air', Rutherford Chang plays on the terrible theatre of the event, removing every word spoken by Dubya so that his hour-long speech is reduced to half an hour of pauses and applause. Chang, a Beijing-based American artist, has also reordered alphabetically an entire edition of the NBC Nightly News, transforming the words of stentorian anchors and weather-beaten reporters into jump-cut stutterings along the lines of 'fréquent, friends, flow, from...', or what seems like an eternity of 'the, the, the...'. His idea is to

examine how supposed facts are always subject to editing, how the brain makes sense of these and further edits what is being relayed.

It's a good idea. Good ideas don't necessarily make good art, though. You'll have sussed this out by the time you reach Bradford Bailey's stash of artist's books. Among them are such gems as clichéd, expressionist 'Anger Drawings' and a series of 'Bad Ideas' which include crude and amusing, Franz West-esque collages. All are more engaging than Bailey's art on the walls, for example his 'Empathy Equations' – a series of linear, white-on-white paintings made by mapping behavioural patterns within given areas. It's Russian Suprematism meets the Neighbourhood Watch. Another good idea? Actually, I hope that Bailey simply painted his lines in the studio before making up his worthy back story over a few drinks. That would be a much better idea.  
*Martin Coomer*



Still from 'Dead Air', 2003

## Critics' choice Galleries

### Thomas Demand

*Sprüth Magers, Mayfair to Sloane Square*  
The Oval Office meticulously modelled in cut paper, ready for a false dawn in American politics perhaps? (Reviewed next week).

### Lucian Freud

*Hazlitt Holland-Hibbert, Mayfair to Sloane Square*  
Last chance to see early works by the figurative maestro, from 1940 to '58.

### Bradford Bailey

*Brown, King's Cross to Shoreditch*  
More American politics, with a newly appointed Dubya silenced by cheers (see *Exhibition of the week*).

### New Contemporaries 2008

*Rochelle School, King's Cross to Shoreditch*  
Find out whether or not the kids are alright in London's best selected gathering of student hopefuls.

### Hans Peter Feldmann

*Simon Lee, Mayfair to Sloane Square*  
Mini-retrospective of this highly regarded photographic flâneur.