



[Call That Art?](#) A solo exhibition by Davlo

At [The Art Lounge](#) , Upstairs, Beehive Pub, New Mills

Reviewed by [Simon Belt](#) March 2012

The title of this exhibition is both delightfully bold whilst covering itself with the get out clause of being ironic and playful to soften the impact - *Call That Art?* How very clever, how very profound, and how it taps into the widespread recognition of the rip-off Britain's New Labour fawning over the *Britart* artists, and their repacking of a lot of tat as art.

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to view paintings, prints, collages and 3D pieces of this genre that seldom make their way into gallery space. Challenging aspects of modern living and society and indeed some commonly held views about what art is. So how exactly does Salford born urban artist **Davlo** answer the question behind the exhibition through his art? Very well actually, with great aplomb and a good deal of humour actually.

Davlo's work can be found in private collections in the UK and abroad, including, and perhaps most notably, Vivienne Westwood, who described a piece depicting Malcolm McLaren as ***touching and somewhat poetic***

. And ahead of the preview for the exhibition, Davlo left a limited number of his works around the New Mills town centre area, so that keen eyed art enthusiasts could pick up a piece for free. And this rather fitted the spirit behind the creation of the pieces in the exhibition.

I think one of the first things to mention about Davlo's art is that it's made from very ordinary and easily obtainable materials - just look in most bins and you could pick up pieces of cardboard boxes, the likes of which seem to be the mainstay of his 'canvasses'. A pair of scissors and you could cut out some coloured paper or scraps of old material and you're almost complete with materials. I presume he's used a little glue here and there, so the last thing would be the remnants of a spray can or two and you're all kitted out.

