

MASTERS OF

art & sport

Major exhibition highlights connecting passion, energy and determination

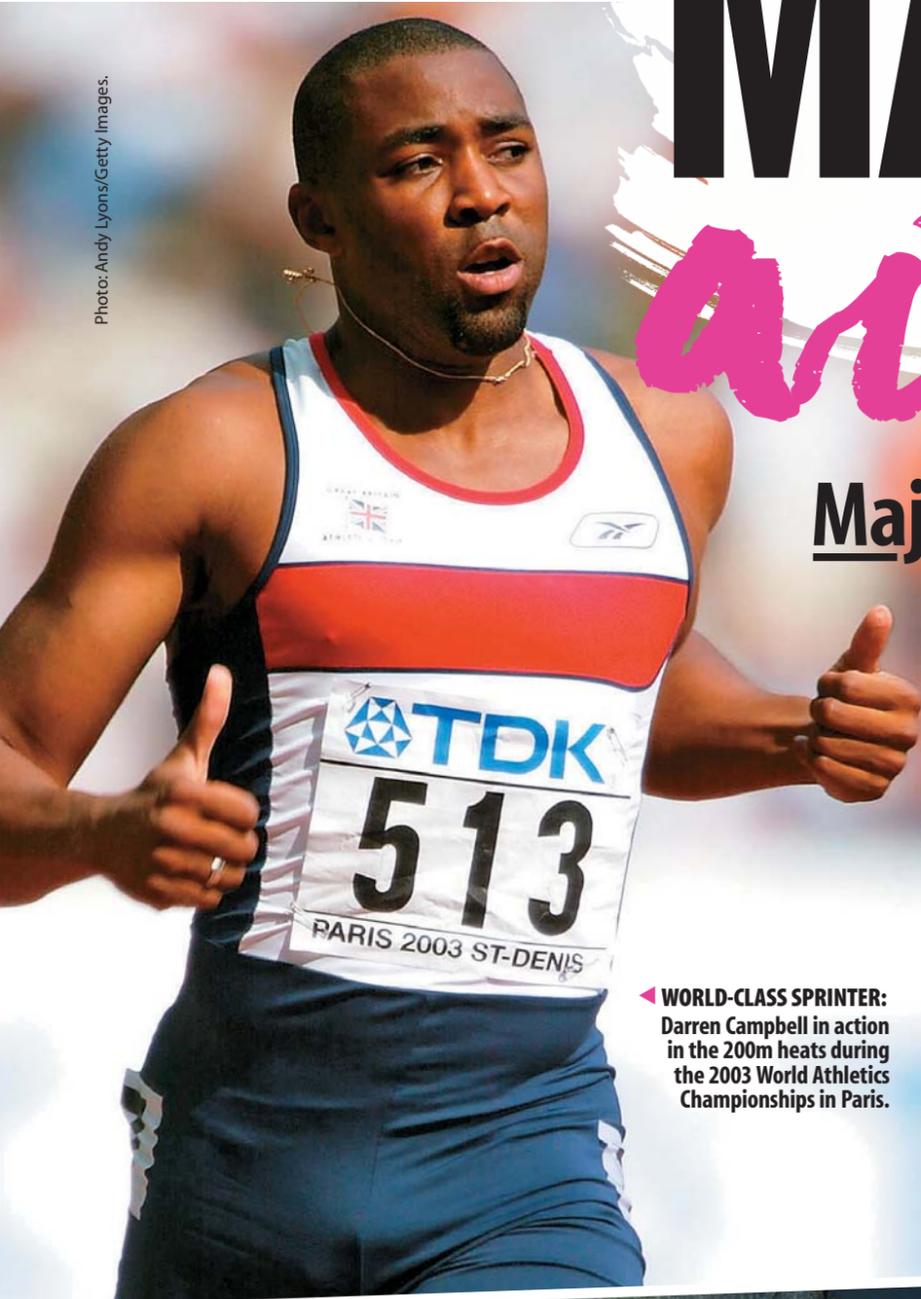


Photo: Andy Lyons/Getty Images.

WORLD-CLASS SPRINTER: Darren Campbell in action in the 200m heats during the 2003 World Athletics Championships in Paris.

THE passion, energy and determination connecting art and sport is the theme of a major new exhibition at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

It features 40 paintings by acclaimed British abstract artist Philippe Aird who died suddenly last year, aged 54. One of the works was a collaboration between Philippe and British Olympic gold medal sprinter Darren Campbell whose career achievements provide the sporting element to the event. Philippe, who as a teenager was taught by world-famous Salford artist L.S. Lowry, had his own distinctive style and methodology producing high energy paintings with explosions of colour.

Darren, who was part of the BBC team covering the Rio Olympics this year, became an Olympic champion at Athens in 2004 as part of Britain's all-conquering 4 x 100 metres relay team.

Entitled Masters of Art and Sport, the innovative exhibition is the idea of Jean Milton, Exhibition and Interpretation Officer at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

"There are great similarities between the intellectual processes involved in producing great works of art and producing great sporting performances," said Jean.

"The exhibition is a celebration of the energy, passion and determination of both individuals through the intertwining threads of sport and art. It is a very appropriate theme in a year when Stoke-on-Trent is the European City of Sport."

Launched on 29 October, the exhibition will run until Sunday 12 February during which time there will be

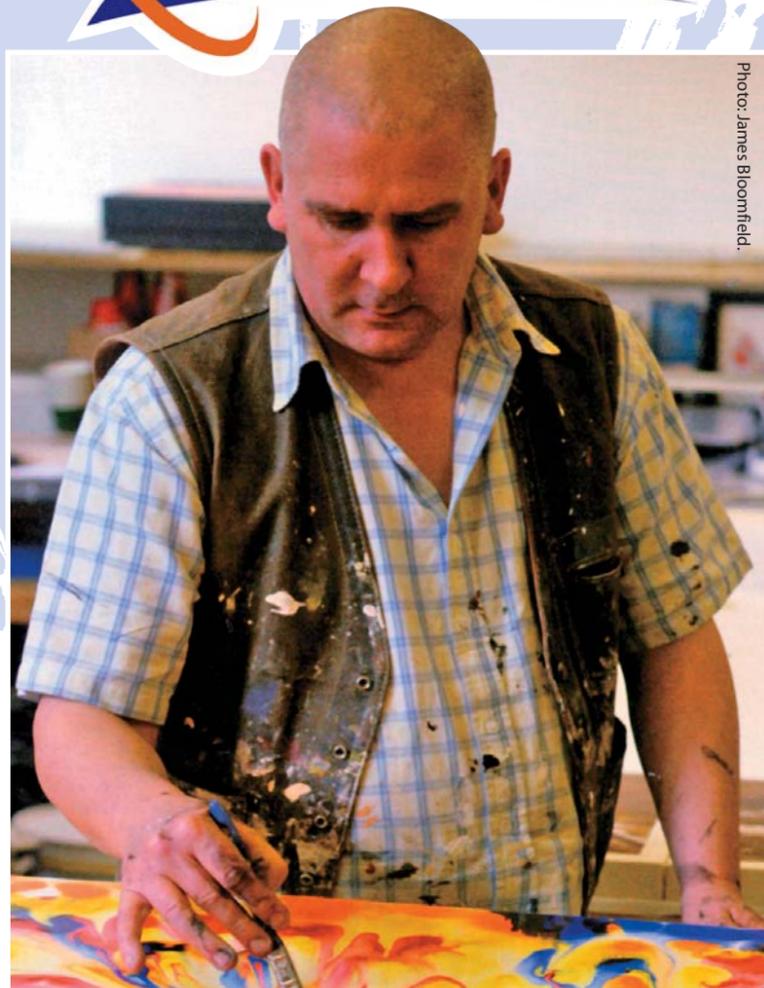


Photo: James Bloomfield.

ACCLAIMED ARTIST: Philippe Aird at work in his studio.

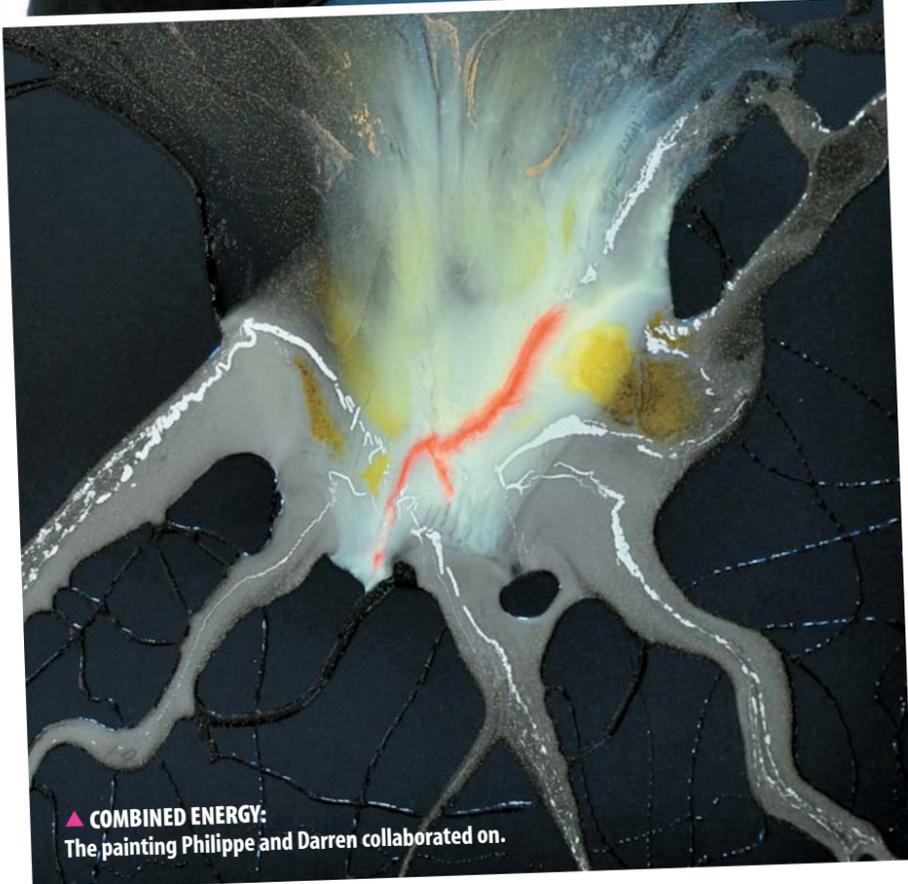
numerous events staged in conjunction.

"The events will include visits from Darren Campbell and other leading people from the world of sport," said Jean.

North Staffordshire-based award winning artist Paine Profitt, who specialises in stylised football paintings, will be supporting the exhibition

with a display of his work.

Paine said: "There's so much emotion, passion and beauty in sport that I feel it lends itself to the canvas very well. With painting, you can try to convey those feelings, whether it's excitement, despair, elation, love, or devotion - and there's that emotional connection that both art and sport hold."



COMBINED ENERGY: The painting Philippe and Darren collaborated on.

£100,000 grant-funding cashpot available for sports clubs in the city

SPORTS clubs around the city are being encouraged to apply for funding from a £100,000 cashpot that aims to boost opportunities for residents to participate in sporting activity.

The money has been made available by the city council through its Community Grants Programme (CGP) as part of the European City of Sport

celebrations. Clubs and organisations can apply for one-off cash grants of up to £2,000 which can be spent on delivering activities and training, new equipment or enhancements to existing sporting facilities, among other things.

The money will support community sports programmes across the city, which will help residents of all ages and

backgrounds become healthier through sport and exercise.

Angela Smith, who chairs the European City of Sport Local Organising Committee, said: "We realise that without certain smaller clubs, residents in some communities would not be able to take part in activities.

"We want to include every sector in

our year as European City of Sport. Inspiration is not just gained from Olympic athletes and stars but from local sporting clubs and members. I hope many will benefit from these grants."

To apply for funding and view the full eligibility and criteria go to stoke.gov.uk/communitysportgrants