

Found in space



...ure the curious into a mutually beneficial exchange with The Vorticist.

A card on the wall reads: *The subject "loved convents, the sense of sexual repression and architectural grandeur. She said it was as if forced purity created a kind of vacuum that was filled by evil and darkness. It made her think of vampires."*

Maling describes himself as a "live artist". He trained as a painter but now concerns himself with "performance-based live projects that engage with an audience". He created The Vorticist a year ago.

The Vorticist functions "a bit like a psychiatrist or a palm reader", Maling says. "The Vorticist is not offering anything. He is just offering a space ... for stuff to be developed and pulled into the middle."

People might visit The Vorticist because of a friend's rec-

What is a vorticist?

"Vorticist is an invented word," Jason Maling says. "It comes from Vorticism, which was the first British abstract art movement, just prior to the First World War. Ezra Pound (right), the American poet, coined the term. They used it to think about an idea — a whole multi-discipline of writers, artists, painters and poets would synthesise the whirl of the modern world and bring it to a still point." In creating The Vorticist, Maling says he was making "a very conscious nod" to the British art movement but also playing with

the "Victorian idea of a pseudo science ... something that looks tremendously meaningful but really isn't".



The playful website deliberately enhances the sense of mys-

ing a direction to develop on its own terms. We discussed this ab-

an abstract drawing with the aid of the instruments in the boxes. The Vorticist keeps a carbon copy and then writes notes about his exchange with "the subject", including a line or two of "drawing notes" that have a pseudo-scientific flavour.

Notes and drawings from the first year of these encounters are now on display at the Abbotsford Convent's C3 gallery. The "subjects" remain anonymous and the notes provide intriguing reading, like excerpts from a surrealist novel. Sometimes the concerns of the subjects are interrelated, which interests and pleases The Vorticist.

Another card: *"As a certified dream technologist, he was responsible for delivering people their dreams. The subject would phone his clients late at night*