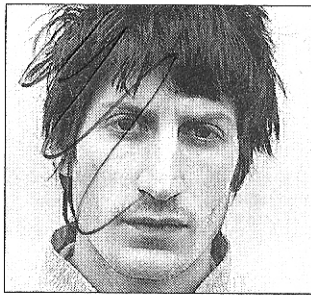


## WATCH THIS FACE

### Samuel Porritt

This young artist's face may resemble a *quattrocento* bust, but the work he produces is rather more avant garde. Currently stealing the limelight at the Royal Academy's MA degree show (London W1, 020 7300 8000; to 26 June) is his sculpture *Baghdad*, a gnomic wooden shape resembling a melting minarette. This, he says, is the product of "studying Islamic proportions", "many hours of late-night sketching, sometimes drunken" and "a nice encounter with a sympathetic piece of wood". Porritt, London-born and London-trained, claims he was



"bad at everything" at school but has enjoyed his MA at the RA. Particularly the healthy critical dialogue with his fellow students. "We all put the boot into one another, basically. I'm going to miss it." While working presently in the medium of sculpture, Porritt also produces video art and painting. "I like to keep supple," he says. "So I can broker the idea to the form."