

# Art on the wild side

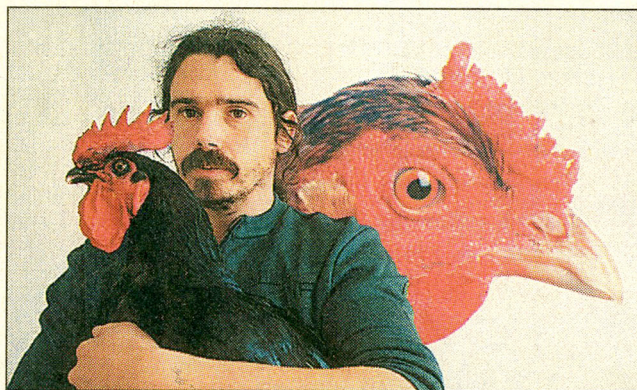
■ **By Dalya Alberge**  
Arts Correspondent

■ THE latest work of art at one of Britain's foremost galleries has feathers, fins and thousands of eyes; some would argue it should really be in a zoo.

■ A collection of live chickens in a coop, piranhas swimming around a fish tank and a fly, called Henry, trapped in a tiny wire cage, make up a new exhibition by three artists at north-west London's Lisson Gallery.

■ It is a good job that the word "gallery" appears outside the Lisson — famed for supplying cutting-edge art to the Tate Gallery's Turner Prize — because few peering through the window would guess that works of art are on display.

■ Dutch artist Jeroen Offerman has "housed" Henry, the fly, in a miniature cage of silver-plated copper-wire, barely larger than a couple of matchboxes. It lives on strawberries and water, but once it dies, a



Chicken fun: artist Koen Vanmechelen and cockerel

new "Henry" replaces it. Koen Vanmechelen, from Belgium, is showing a cockerel, three hens, an incubator and a genealogy, with photographs, to show the cockerel has Belgian, French and English descent.

■ The piranhas and their tank are the work of John Latham, who made his name in the 1950s with his SKOOB art — books spelt backwards. He

has given the piranhas texts to read as they swim around.

Nicholas Logsdail, the gallery's chairman, said: "Anything is valid as art, if the intention of the artist is interesting and it's done with serious intention and endeavour."

## LINKS

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[www.lisson.co.uk](http://www.lisson.co.uk) Lisson Gallery website