



### ● Slow Magic

Liverpool

The slow magic in question is that of contemporary painting. Since painting as a medium is so weighted with glorious and daunting tradition, it is often considered these days to be fraught with uncertainty. How can the painstaking techniques of pictorial painting compete with the super speed of digital and electronic reproduction? How can the carefully composed phenomena of abstract painting compete with the flashy amazements of multimedia? By embracing the essential uncertain position of painting within contemporary culture, the six international artists here conjure up a kind of magic of disparate composites. Alicia Paz (work pictured) is typical with an awkward yet half-enchanting assemblage of cut-out collage, acrylic and oil smears, photo-realism and illusionistic abstraction, fantasy and botanical illustration, and a kind of devil-may-care ambition. **RC**

*The Bluecoat, to 13 Sep*