

# THE COOL LIST TOP THREE

**3 Rachel Maclean**  
31, artist  
**Why?** She makes our social media hell into fabulous art



## Weird and wonderful, surreal and silly, meet the face of modern art

THERE'S no artist quite like Rachel Maclean. She has created a mad, filmic vision of her own, through a process all of her own.

Most of the strange and grotesque characters in her films are her in disguise, transformed with thick layers of garish make-up and digital effects.

She is the one lip-syncing to found audio tracks. She is the figure transported via green screen into a bizarre universe – and it's all magnificently out there.

Maclean is as brilliantly surreal as Bjork, but she is also a reminder of what

“I live inside the world of the film quite extensively

art can do, that journalism or a TV documentary can't.

She nails the nightmare that is our social media and fake news age.

Spite Your Face, the film she presented last year at the Venice Biennale, turned the Pinocchio tale into a satire on the Trump era, and, over a year on, seems more relevant than ever.

She demonstrates, too, the extremes an artist may go to for their art. Maclean spent a month eating and sleeping in Birmingham's Bullring shopping centre, dressed as a giant, grotesque bunny.

For her films, she says: “I live inside

the world of the film quite extensively for the few years it takes to make it. The time you're in costume is maybe a day, but then there's just all the living and thinking about the characters.”

But with Maclean, what makes her all the more cool is that she is now taking her vision to a wider audience.

This autumn will see her much-hyped first feature film broadcast on the BBC.

Filmed in the derelict spaces of St Peter's Seminary, it's a feminist response to Kenneth Clark's landmark cultural series Civilisation.

**2 Gerry Cinnamon**  
32, singer  
**Why?** He's a belter



## A belter of a showman and a musician, Gerry sold out in minutes

WHEN earlier this month Gerry Cinnamon added a few extra dates to his tour, they sold out in three minutes. Last week, footage of Irish dancers performing to his hit She's A Belter went viral.

There are plenty of big names out there in Scottish music, but right now it's Gerry Cinnamon's moment.

It's his very Scottish version of cool – just a man on a stage with his guitar, singing out some great tunes – that has got Scotland absolutely buzzing.

“It's a mad feeling. Beautiful mayhem

What he did at TRNSMT earlier this year said everything about him.

Taking the main stage after J Hus pulled out, he turned the audience into a great, huge belting choir who even chanted out his name.

“See when the crowd's with you,” he said, “singing every word it's a mad feeling. Beautiful mayhem.”

Geoff Ellis, director of TRNSMT, recognised how big he was. “Not since Oasis have I seen someone go on such a rapid trajectory around here,” he said.

“He's gone from playing to 50 people to a point where he could easily sell out the Hydro. We had to bring him back.” What makes him all the cooler is that success didn't come early.

Cinnamon was told along the way that he shouldn't sing with a Scottish accent and had to crowdsource the money for his first album which came out last year.

He remains an independent musician, unattached to any record company. He's a belter, in other words, with attitude.

**1 Aldo Kane**  
40, adventurer  
**Why?** He keeps his cool in extremes

# Drugs, guns and scary adventures

ALMOST everything Aldo Kane does is so extreme or terrifying it would make most of us melt into a puddle.

He is the kind of cool, in other words, that is good at keeping calm in a hairy situation – whether when working with gun-toting South American narcotics dealers for the documentary The Real Narcos or filming inside a volcano that unfortunately happens to start erupting.

He also has a beard that looks more coiffed for climbing mountains than pulling pints in a trendy pub.

Anywhere you imagine you might be nervous of going, he's been there: an Ebola treatment centre, water-flooded caves, rowing a boat across the Atlantic on a world-record breaking trip.

“Everything,” says Kane, “has been in an extreme or remote or hostile environment. It can be benign, in a cave or a bunker, or it can be full-on being chased by Mexican drug rings.”

For years Kane was the safety and ropes guy behind many of TV's extreme adventure or nature shows, taking presenters to breathtaking and risky locations, but not appearing much on screen. This year he has broken through as a star himself, with all of his work on screen and a hectic schedule of trips for many of the major television channels.

He has been in Russia with speed-

obsessed Guy Martin, done a survival race in Borneo with Ed Stafford, and been on countless trips with Steve Backshall with whom he is filming the groundbreaking BBC primetime Expedition series.

In July, he emerged, blinking, into the light after 10 days' solitary confinement in a nuclear bunker, and was about to fly to the two-hour daylight of Greenland for an expedition with Backshall.

When we emailed him last week he was in Suriname in South America, about to head down the river into unexplored jungle. Somehow, in the middle of this, he was also managing to hold down a relationship with a producer of nature documentaries.

The Kilwinning-raised son of two paramedics' route to exploration came via the Scouts. From 12, he and twin Ross would camp on their own in places like Glencoe. At 16, his eyes set on adventure, he joined the Royal Marines, where he became a sniper.

What was his most petrifying moment? “Being inside the volcano when it was erupting wasn't cool. Then with the cartel in The Real Narcos. I was charged by a black rhino, but that wasn't nearly as scary as dealing with a coked-up Narco who is carrying a gun.”

“I've been charged by a rhino but it is not as scary as dealing with a coked-up Narco with a gun

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