



A video still from Harold Offeh's film *Smile*, 2001. Photograph: Harold Offeh



Harold Offeh. Photograph: Tim P Whitby

Harold Offeh Royal College of Art MA, 1999 2001

The status of the Royal College show means you get thousands of visitors. I was the post-YBA generation, and it was made very clear to us that there were dealers there. While we were still setting up, Charles Saatchi was stalking around, rifling through people's half-hung work. He wanted to see the shows before they were installed.

This still is from my film *Smile*, which was me smiling for 34 minutes to the song *Smile*, written by Charlie Chaplin. I was interested in our responses to pop songs. For me, art wasn't a commercial thing, but at the final show there was a bit of bitchiness about whose work was selling. It was, "Ooh, look - she's got three red stickers. How has *that* sold?"