



thelondonnightout

WEDNESDAY
20 JUNE 2007

ART | EDIBLE ESTATES

Art that you eat



HEIKO PRIGGE



REALLY USEFUL COMPANY | Local residents assist in Haeg's garden-art project

patch of communal grass, previously best appreciated by dogs, he and residents have installed cauliflowers, tomatoes, herbs, potatoes and apples, amongst other goodies. "My original instinct was to do the same thing here as I had in the US," Haeg says, "and do a private piece of land that is public."

"But it doesn't have the same resonance here, because you don't have these endless

suburban sprawls of front lawns."

Lawns are his pet hate—and it's our fault.

"Lawns were first established in English manor homes as a demonstration of wealth," he explains. "The vegetable garden would be

“Lawns were first established as a demonstration of wealth”

LA-BASED ARTIST
FRITZ HAEG

LOTTIE MOGGACH
@thelondonpaper.com

WHAT'S the opposite of Damien Hirst's £50m bling-encrusted skull, currently on view at the White Cube gallery?

There are several possible answers—a caravan park in North Wales being one of them. But in contemporary art terms, it could well be LA artist Fritz Haeg's project, *Edible Estates*.

Unflashy, community spirited and impossible to sell—unless you were going down to market—the LA artist's project involves turning dormant patches of grass into fruit, vegetable and herb gardens.

Having transformed two lawns in the US, he has come to London to do the same, as part of Tate Modern's major new exhibition, *Global Cities*, which examines recent changes in ten cities.

Rather than working on a private front lawn, Haeg has tackled a small square in the Brookwood House estate in Southwark. On a scrubby

den going and harvest its contents—*Edible Estates* is a political project too, he says. "A lot of people feel they have very little say in the direction the world is going, and private property is one of the few things that you have control over. How you use it

can demonstrate the way you'd like the world to go, in some small measure," he adds.

Global Cities is in the Tate Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern, Bankside, SE1, 020 7887 8888, from today until 27 August, free