

News

Floral flagship

British artist Marc Quinn's *Untitled 2010*, on loan from Monaco's *Maison d'Art*, is a highlight of the Treasure House Fair, a flagship London summer show that opened yesterday until Tuesday at the Royal Hospital Chelsea where 70 leading galleries contribute to more than 20 collecting categories.



Danger to Willoughby was immediate, says officer

By Connor Stringer SENIOR REPORTER

AN UNDERCOVER officer who discussed the alleged plan to rape, kidnap and murder Holly Willoughby with a security guard online felt that there was "immediate danger" to the television star, a court heard.

The officer, using the alias David Nelson, told jurors how he encountered Gavin Plumb, 37 in a flik group called "Abduct Lovers".

The court heard how up to 50 people were active in the group, where individuals discussed kidnaps and looked for accomplices "to carry out murders".

Mr Plumb, a security guard from Harlow, Essex, is said to have told the group in a post seen by the officer, that he had a "load of info" on Willoughby including "when she does and doesn't have security and that she doesn't have CCTV at home".

The officer, from the Owatonna Police Department in the US state of Minnesota, recalled being sent an image of what he described as an "abduction kit", telling Chelmsford Crown Court: "It was quite alarming."

He said Mr Plumb also sent a photo of bottles of chloroform.

Asked by Alison Morgan QC, prosecuting, why he sent a direct message to Mr Plumb, the officer said he "felt there was imminent threat" to her. He said he showed Mr Plumb a flight confirmation "to show him that I was willing to accomplice him in this act".

Mr Plumb was described by the prosecution as having an "obsession" with Willoughby. He denies soliciting murder, incitement to rape and incitement to kidnap. The trial continues.