

## Artist framed in a guide to the perfect robbery

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

COUTTS Bank was alarmed to discover yesterday that a publicly-funded art gallery in London was exhibiting plans and detailing explosives components and escape routes for a daring robbery on their branch in Lombard Street.

Meticulous details for the perfect crime — amassed by an artist over 18 months of hanging round the bank and on street corners — include the precise movements of staff, photographs of security guards, floorplans of the building, and getaway routes.

All are displayed at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, whose annual public grants include £916,700 from the Arts Council.

Visitors to an exhibition called *Crash*, which runs until December 19, are given plenty of information: "Every second Thursday, an armoured vehicle is dispatched from central security on a route with stops at five banks. Accumulated unmarked cash stored in the banks' vaults is

prepared for collection ... When the armoured vehicle is leaving the stop before Coutts ... a call is made notifying the bank of its due arrival ... The money is prepared for pick-up and moved to a holding position ... The vehicle arrives heading southwest on King William St, turns right into Lombard St and stops before the front exit ..."

The artist is Janice Kerbel, 30, a Canadian who has lived in London for the past four years. In 1997, she began "to case a principal bank in London's city centre, accruing details of its daily working".

"From these specifics," she said, "I began the work *Bank Job, 15 Lombard St*, a ready-to-go plan of how to rob this particular bank."

A spokeswoman for Coutts said: "We will be investigating this ... It is very irresponsible to encourage any act of robbery which might endanger any members of our staff or the public. We do take this very seriously."