

CARVING A REPUTATION

Halima Cassell.
Below, artist David Coggins



Town viewed through the eyes of artists

BLACKBURN sculptor Halima Cassell is bringing her art, which has been exhibited in top galleries worldwide, to the town this week.

The mother-of-one will be merging her Asian heritage, fascination with Africa and the landscape of her home in a specially commissioned work for a major show.

She is one of six lecturers and former students of Blackburn College to take part in the "Streets, Places, Journeys" exhibition at the borough's Museum and Art Gallery.

It focuses and on their view of the town and should provoke much thought among residents. Halima was born in 1975 in Pakistan. She

■ Lecturers offer a creative perspective

By **BILL JACOBS**
bill.jacobs@nqnw.co.uk

was brought up in Manchester but now lives in Blackburn.

She has exhibited her work at galleries at home and overseas, including the V and A in London. Her work has also been shown in Sweden, Tuscany and India. She also has new shows next year in Brussels and at Canary Wharf.

Halima has made a sculpture called Urban Facades specifically for the Blackburn exhibition. She said "The piece I have done depicts both buildings from Blackburn and Darwen, from historical and

modern buildings, as well as ones that are going to be taken down."

The exhibition, which runs until February 1, features work by artists who were asked to paint their views of Blackburn. All are successful ex-students and lecturers from the art department at Blackburn College

Another artist who will be featured is Richard Cross, who teaches at the college, and this year had two pieces chosen to be shown at the Royal Academy's summer exhibition. He has included paintings with the views from his studio and from the railway station. Other students and lecturers featured are David Coggins, Ian Norris, Steve Pickles and Mark Edmundson.

