

theguardian

Saturday 1 August-
Friday 7 August 2009

guide

exhibitions

● **Fiona Crisp** Gateshead

Fiona Crisp's recent large-scale photographs represent apparently deserted and unearthly underground spaces. While we might be told that these spotlit areas were once variously an early Christian Roman catacomb, or a Guernsey second world war underground hospital, or the Killhope, County



Durham lead-mining museum, Crisp's images are compositionally powerful enough to free

the sites from heritage industry nostalgia. Tunnels and arches recede into darkness, glistening with a chill and echoing aura of solitude. Crisp's command of photographic atmosphere tends to suggest interiors of the mind as much as of architectural appearance. **RC**
BALTIC, to 4 Oct