

theguardian

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guide

exhibitions

● Zed Nelson Bradford



Zed Nelson spent over five years travelling through 18 countries and five continents to

gather this global picture of humanity's obsession with cosmetic youth and beauty. With deadpan full-frontal poses and no-thrills documentary compositions, Nelson portrays the bloated, sun-scorched anatomies of bodybuilders and the stretched-faced fish pouts of willing victims of cosmetic surgery.

There are the female staff at a Russian nuclear

agency competing for the title of Miss Atom and a Tehran queue of Iranian women awaiting the nose jobs that might make them look a bit less Iranian. The impression is of a worldwide need to conform to western stereotypes, though many of Nelson's subjects turn out utterly grotesque.

ROBERT CLARK

Impressions Gallery, to 29 May