

Finches tweet the birdie song

BIRDSONG takes on a whole new meaning at the Barbican from this week, as French contemporary artist Céleste Boursier-Mougenot unveils the latest commission for The Curve.

Taking the form of a walk-through aviary inhabited by 40 zebra finches, Céleste has constructed a landscape for the birds using bass guitars and Gibson Les Paul electric guitars as perches and

cymbals as feeders containing water and seeds.

As the birds go about their daily business, they settle on the instruments inadvertently plucking strings and pecking cymbals to create one-off chance compositions, with the sounds amplified to resonate throughout the gallery.

Céleste trained as a musician and began his career as the composer of the Pascal

Rambert Theatre Company. Since moving into art he has regularly used music in his work. In 2001 he used surveillance cameras to create a sound piece based on New York street life called *Videodrones*, while *Harmonichaos*, 2000-06, features 13 vacuum cleaners.

● **The installation will run until Sunday, May 23. Details: 0845 120 7550 or www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery**



Two birds playing an electric guitar