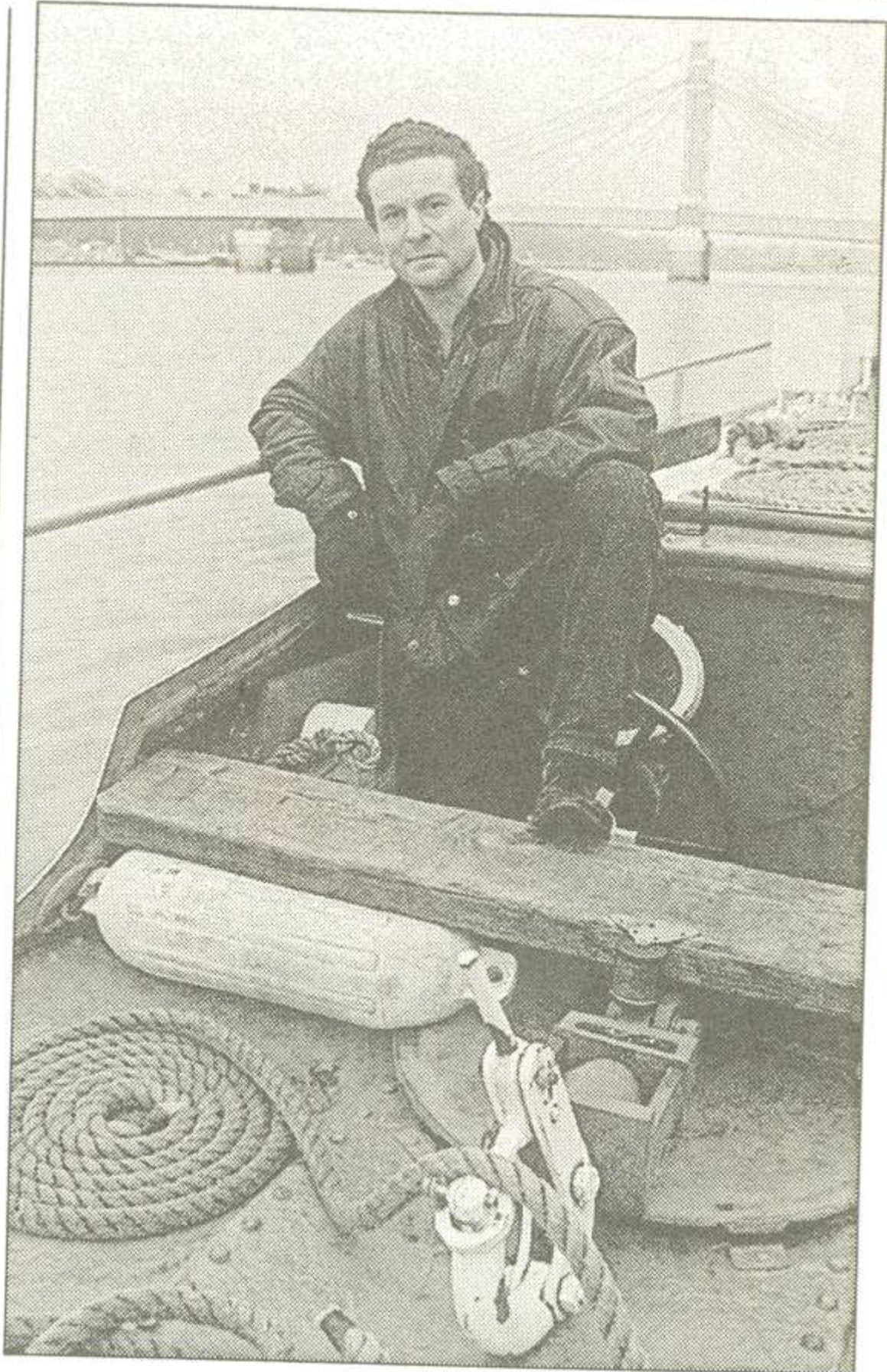


Evening Standard

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EVENING STANDARD



Going down: Max Couper will tour Europe with barge and tug

STANDARD REPORTER

ARTIST Max Couper aims to make a big impression on German art lovers, by dropping a Thames tug into 100 tons of mud to make what is believed to be the largest art print ever.

Couper, who lives on three barges moored at Chelsea Reach, has been commissioned by Sprengel Museum of Modern Art, Hanover, to carry out the work, to be entitled Tugprint.

He will sail the 38ft, 14-ton tug Pablo and a barge from London to Hanover where a crane will lift the tug and drop it into mud at the museum. The tug will be lifted again to reveal an impression of the hull.

That will be the culmination of exhibitions using Couper's tug and barge across European cities, including Antwerp, Rotterdam and Paris, starting next year.

In Duisburg, Germany, Couper, 38, will hoist the

Impression of English genius sinks into the mud

barge on to a giant fulcrum in the town centre and balance it like a giant see-saw.

The artist, who has lived on the Thames for 12 years, said: "This project is about what links us Europeans together and water is the ancient and fundamental connection between all of us. The subjects of cultural flow, imprintation, currency, communication and equilibrium are all part of it."

He is currently designing 14 large floating sculptures to be placed in the Thames in central London for the Royal College of Art. He has shown his work internationally since 1976.