

About the cover**May 2008 Volume 7 No 5**

"L'éclatement des célestins" (1964), a typical work of art by Jacques Villeglé. The pointy torn shapes in Villeglé's work are very familiar, but the reasons these shapes arise when adhesive films are peeled were unknown until now. Understanding the mechanism behind this phenomenon could lead to new tests for the mechanical properties of thin films. © ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2008.

Cover design by David Shand

[**Article by Hamm *et al.* \(/doifinder/10.1038/nmat2161\)**](#)