



# THE PIPER GALLERY

## Mick Finch: *Engrams*

The Piper Gallery, 18 Newman Street, London, W1T 1PE

Private View: Thursday 5th September 2013, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Exhibition Dates: Friday 6th September - Friday 11th October 2013

The Piper Gallery is excited to present a solo show of Mick Finch's recent work. Despite showing in Paris regularly, this is his first solo show in London for fifteen years. *Engrams* can best be described as photo-reliefs. Finch began the series of *Engrams* in January 2011, during his time as an Abbey Fellow in Painting at the British School in Rome. His intention was to make a series of photo-collages, with a variation in the relief structure developed in an earlier series (entitled *Bare Life*). The works layer up to three photographs in a single picture form. Sections are sliced to reveal the images that lie below, coloured spaces and, sometimes, the wall that the work is hung on. The photographs are predominantly of architectural forms and urban spaces, either taken by Finch or appropriated from found images.

The compositional and organising impulse in these works refers to particular distinctions of montage and collage image relationships. The concept of the 'shock' found in Walter Benjamin's writing and the idea of a 'continuum' flowing between images that can be found in Aby Warburg's thinking, are particular examples of this. Engram refers to Warburg's use of the word that was an appropriation of a biochemical concept, referencing the means by which memory traces are stored. Warburg used an idea of the engram as a means to figure memory in relation to images. The layering of urban and architectural images, overlapping histories and displacements in time are referenced in the relief form.

In *Engram 8*, two images are combined. The first was taken at the Villa Torlonia in Rome - an early 19th century neo-classical building designed by Valadier - that was used, from the 1920s, as Mussolini's principle residence. The image was taken looking into a large cracked mirror, in what was Mussolini's dressing room. Holes are cut through this image to reveal the second image of bullhorn loudspeakers - the public address system at a Fascist rally, appropriated from propaganda footage of the time. One hole containing a section of the bullhorn image is raised up to be on the same plane as the contemporary image of the mirror. Another layer, closest to the position of the spectator, frames the two photographic images. It is painted in chrome yellow, sampled from the colour of the wall in the dressing room image. A cross-shaped mark on the mirror echoes the cruciform structure supporting the bullhorns. A hole, cut through all of the layers, reveals an 'empty' black circle, in turn echoing the bullhorns' gaping mouths. The displacements in space, the image of the room as seen in the mirror, the spaces of the relief itself and the displacements in time serve not to act as a commentary on Mussolini and the tragedy of the

Italian Fascist period - rather they constitute an intertwining, an entanglement, an *entrelac* between how moments of a nominal 'now' and a 'then' displace and re-present themselves.

All of the reliefs are 60 x 40 cm in the horizontal and vertical dimensions. Their depths vary between 4 and 6 cm depending upon how many layers are combined. The reliefs' layers are planned and composed in Photoshop to gauge what a cut will reveal from a successive layer. However the images are cut by hand and much improvisation and accident determines the final result. 6mm MDF wood acts as the supports for the images and the frontal framing layer.

So far 43 reliefs have been made in this series. Other reliefs are comprised of images from Amsterdam, Brussels, Lodz and London. Each city suggests a different pictorial structure. The framing layer of each relief operates differently depending on the demands of the images it contains and the manner by which they are integrated as pierced layers. In all of the *Engram* works, the apparatus of the relief structure serves to activate a dialogue between the images, between their spaces, their temporality and histories. They are entangled interstices and do not aim to reduce the components into a single entity or image but instead seek to render an ebb and flow of readings.

## Mick Finch

Mick Finch was born in 1957. He studied painting at the Ravensbourne College of Art from 1976-80 and the Royal College of Art from 1982-85. He lives and works in London and is currently BA Fine Art Course Leader at Central Saint Martins.

## The Piper Gallery

The Piper Gallery is dedicated to showcasing the work of contemporary artists whose careers have spanned forty years or more. The gallery aims to present these artists to a new generation and to demonstrate both the strength of their lifelong commitment to their practice and the continuing dynamism of their recent production.

The gallery currently represents nine artists (Edward Allington, Vaughan Grylls, Tess Jaray, Martin McGinn, Paul de Monchaux, Desmond Rayner, Neil Stokoe, Wendy Taylor and Francis West) all of whom are represented in numerous public and private collections in the UK and worldwide.

Megan Piper, 28, the gallery's Founder and Director is keen to develop a unique platform for these longstanding, established artists. The gallery is supported by Andrew Morris, a leading figure in the media and events industry for over 20 years. During this time he has launched the Business Design Centre in Islington and been CEO of the NEC in Birmingham whilst holding a varied portfolio of other business interests.

## Forthcoming exhibitions

Peter Hide and Walter Early

Tuesday 15th October – Friday 22nd November 2013 (Private View: Monday 14th October 2013)

## Fact Sheet

Exhibition Title	Engrams Mick Finch
Exhibition Dates	Friday 6th September - Friday 11th October 2013
Location	The Piper Gallery, 18 Newman Street, London, W1T 1PE <a href="http://www.thepipergallery.com">www.thepipergallery.com</a> , <a href="https://www.twitter.com/thepipergallery">www.twitter.com/thepipergallery</a> 020 7148 0350
Opening Hours	Tuesday-Saturday, 10am - 6pm At other times by appointment
Admission	Free
How to get there	The Piper Gallery is located on Newman Street. The nearest underground stations are Tottenham Court Road (on the Central and Northern lines), Oxford Circus Street (on the Bakerloo, Central and Victoria line) and Goodge Street (on the Northern line). The nearest rail station is London Euston.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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Engram 8: 60 x 40 x 5.5 cm, February 2011, archival digital photo media and acrylic on wood.



Engram 38: 60 x 40 x 5.5 cm, April 2013, archival digital photo media and acrylic on wood.



Engram 39: 60 x 40 x 5.5 cm, May 2013, archival digital photo media and acrylic on wood.