

# THE PIPER GALLERY

The Piper Gallery, 18 Newman Street, London W1T 1PE | [www.thepipergallery.com](http://www.thepipergallery.com)

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***THEN AND NOW***

DATES: 29<sup>th</sup> June – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2012

OPENING: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 6:30 - 8:30pm

*"I'm an emerging artist all over again. But I'm no YBA. I'm an EVOBA – an Emerging Very Old British Artist!"*

~ Vaughan Grylls

In June 2012, the flourishing art scene of Fitzrovia will welcome a new resident in the form of The Piper Gallery. Occupying a substantial space on Newman Street, The Piper Gallery is set to stand apart from its neighbouring contemporary galleries by focusing exclusively on artists who have had a career spanning 40 years or more.

The Piper Gallery's much anticipated inaugural exhibition, *Then and Now*, will consist of works by British artists Edward Allington and Vaughan Grylls. *Then and Now* will present renowned pieces from the artists' early career as well as new works specifically commissioned for The Piper Gallery. As Megan Piper states 'The concept of *Then and Now* relates directly to the concept of The Piper Gallery itself – looking back, whilst also looking forward'.

Both artists share a long-standing fascination with history and there are underlying historical references present in both of their work. *Then and Now* looks at the interplay between past and present: the resonance that early works still have today, as well as their assessment of history from a contemporary viewpoint.

Vaughan Grylls is a sculptor and photographer who takes inspiration from international and historical events, as well as philosophical issues. Following an early fascination with the linguistic philosopher, Wittgenstein, Grylls produced a series of works that looked at the relationship between language and visual art, extending plays on words to encompass sculpture. These early works from the 1960s and 1970s have been referred to as 'Pun Sculptures'.

The Piper Gallery's *Then and Now* exhibition will include works from this series: *A Case for Wittgenstein* (1969) and *Drawing the Iron Curtain* (1972). The latter, having not been exhibited for nearly 40 years, depicts the communist/capitalist divide as a stage curtain, drawn over a photograph taken on the east/west German frontier. The curtain is drawn 'The American Way', 'The British Way', 'The French Way' and 'The Russian Way'.



Vaughan Grylls, *Drawing the Iron Curtain*, 1972

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Grylls is, perhaps, best known for his panoramic photo-collages and his early advocacy of the joiner technique which developed in the early 1980s. For The Piper Gallery, Grylls will show a new photo-collage installation, *A Fresh Window* (2012), which forms part of his 'Lost Kings' series. Also on display will be *Signs of the Cross* (2012), in which 20 photographs are framed together in the shape of the iconic Russian cross. The images show a deaf and dumb interpreter explaining to a group of tourists - in graphic sign language - the death of the last Czar of Russia.



Vaughan Grylls, *A Fresh Window*, 2012



Edward Allington, *Unsupported Support*, 1987

Sculptor and draughtsman, Edward Allington, is known for his illusory style and is often linked to British Surrealism due to the juxtaposition of objects in his work. He came to prominence in the early 1980s in the context of a movement sometimes referred to as 'New British Sculpture' which included such artists as Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon and Antony Gormley. Allington's love for contradiction combined with his interest in the classical worlds of Greece and Rome is demonstrated in his ironic references to familiar forms, ancient artefacts and architecture. A subtle, informed humour permeates Allington's work, as can be seen in architectural piece *Unsupported Support* (1987) which consists of a segment of Corinthian capital with no structural or supporting purpose. *Then and Now* will also include two of Allington's early cornucopia works - with elements of Classicism and modern kitsch, they offer an oblique assessment of capitalist thinking and obsolescence.

A selection of Allington's early and recent drawings will also be on show at the gallery. Drawing has always been important to Allington's work - he collects volumes of ledgers, once used for financial records, and removes pages from these high quality, leather bound tomes, drawing over the rows of figures and text which add a layer of their own history to his ideas for sculpture. The ledgers are formal records of day-to-day life - there is a clear contradiction between his illusionistic style of drawing and the ledger paper. As Allington states, 'If you read the writing on the paper, you have to ignore the drawing, and if you want to read the drawing, you have to ignore the writing.' Allington will produce a new sculptural piece for this exhibition that looks directly at the relationship between the ledgers and his sculpture.

From Grylls's 1969 suitcases in *A Case for Wittgenstein* to Allington's 2010 *Suitcase: Lost World*, these serious and engaging artists take the viewer on an intriguing tour of past, present and even future.

*Then and Now* at The Piper Gallery will open to the public on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 and will be accompanied by a catalogue, which includes an essay by renowned museum curator and author, James Putnam. Exclusive, limited edition prints by each of the artists will also be created especially for the exhibition.

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## Notes to Editors

### **The Piper Gallery**

The Piper Gallery currently represents ten artists, all of whom are represented in numerous public and private collections in the UK and worldwide.

The exhibition will mark the launch of The Piper Gallery's West End premises, following complete renovation by acclaimed OO Architects. The new gallery will provide approximately 1300 square feet of highly adaptable space allowing for the presentation of a challenging exhibition programme.

### **Edward Allington**

Edward Allington is a British artist and sculptor, born in Cumbria in 1951. He is currently Head of Graduate Sculpture at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. Allington has exhibited widely in the UK, America, Japan and Europe. His work was included in influential group exhibitions such as *Objects and Sculpture* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (1981) and *The Sculpture Show* at the Hayward Gallery (1983). His work has been acquired by major public, private and corporate collections, including the Arts Council, Tate Gallery, Henry Moore Institute, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and The British Museum.

Allington will also present a series of drawings at the Daiwa Foundation Japan House from 19<sup>th</sup> April until 1 May, 2012.

### **Vaughan Grylls**

Vaughan Grylls is a British artist, sculptor and fine art photographer, born in Newark, 1943. He studied at Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Goldsmiths and the Slade School of Fine Art and has established a career that spans from the late 1960's to present day. Grylls' works have been exhibited at a large number of galleries including, The Photographer's Gallery, Arnolfini and Whitechapel Gallery. He is represented in several public collections including Unilever, Polaroid and the Arts Council of Wales.

## **PAGET PR**

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