

ALAN CRISTEA GALLERY

MICHAEL CRAIG-MARTIN

ALPHABETS and SUNSETS

12 June – 19 July 2008

Press are invited to a private view on Wednesday June 11th 6.00 – 8.00 pm

The Alan Cristea Gallery will be holding a major exhibition of new works by Michael Craig-Martin. The exhibition will include new silkscreen prints, digital animations and light boxes.

Throughout his career, Craig-Martin has explored the aesthetic and linguistic character of everyday, designer and most recently iconic 'art-historical' objects. In the new *Alphabet* prints, outlines of familiar objects from his recognisable vocabulary - an umbrella, a glove, a glass - are set against a background of vivid monochrome colour and overlaid with a single letter. In some cases there appears to be a link between the object and letter and in others the connection is more ambiguous.

For this exhibition, the artist has also completed his first series of digital inkjet prints, *Tokyo Sunsets*, which again draws upon his vocabulary of generic and iconic objects, only this time set against a backdrop of vivid colours which graduate seamlessly from one print to the next.

Craig-Martin has long embraced the computer as a tool for working on ideas and compositions and now he has expanded his oeuvre to include digital animations. He uses the computer both as a vehicle for display and as the tool for aesthetic decision-making. In both *Coming* and *Going*, each object is drawn separately by the artist, but the composition we see is the result of a constantly evolving, randomly generated combination of these objects. In *Going* his well known vocabulary of images appear and disappear and in *Coming*, classic iconic objects from twentieth century art history (Duchamp, Johns, LeWitt, Judd, Andre etc) randomly appear and disappear to create an ever-changing and unpredictable artwork. This exhibition will also include a brand new animation based on Diego Velázquez's seminal painting, *Las Meninas*.

Michael Craig-Martin was born in Dublin in 1941 and educated in the United States, where he studied at Yale University under Josef Albers. He returned to Europe in the mid-1960s and was a key figure in the first generation of British conceptual artists. As a tutor at Goldsmith's College from 1974-1988 and 1994-2000, he had a significant influence on several generations of young British artists. He has recent retrospectives at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (2006) and Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2006), and has permanent large-scale installations at Regents Place and The Laban Center, both in London

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue

Notes to editors:

Alan Cristea Gallery is the largest dealer and publisher of 20th-century and contemporary prints in Europe, publishing prints by the very best international artists as well as regularly showing paintings, works on paper, light-boxes and installations. In 2007, the gallery expanded and is now at 31 and 34 Cork Street.

Press information: Jeanette Ward, Theresa Simon & Partners Ltd
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Visitor information: Gallery open 10-5.30 weekdays, 10-1 on Saturdays.
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