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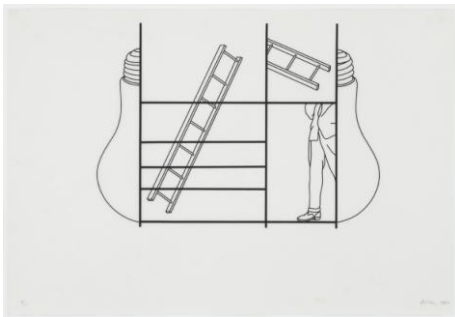
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MICHAEL CRAIG-MARTIN
DRAWINGS: 1967 - 2002

60 PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN DRAWINGS, INCLUDING STUDIES FOR MAJOR WORKS AND COMMISSIONS

PRIVATE VIEWING DAY: WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2011
BY APPOINTMENT 3-6PM, DRINKS 6-8PM



Study for Paris Night, 1987

Black tape on drafting film

49.7 x 73.2 cm

Initialed, dated and annotated 'D' in pencil on recto

Unique



Study for Modern Music

Black and red tape on polyester drafting film

60.6 x 91cm

Signed recto

Unique

London - The Alan Cristea Gallery will present the first ever exhibition of drawings by the conceptual artist Michael Craig-Martin from 5 May until 4 June 2011. To be staged in the year that Craig-Martin celebrates his 70th birthday, the show spans four decades of his career; none of the 60 unique drawings, including studies for major works and commissions, have ever been seen in the public domain and this exhibition represents the first time that this aspect of his work has been brought together and documented. All the works are hand-drawn, with the majority pre-dating his use of the computer - but will also include wall drawings which he will prepare in situ in the Alan Cristea Gallery ahead of the opening of the show, using his traditional technique of black masking tape.

This exhibition tracks the development of his signature artistic 'vocabulary' of everyday ordinary objects including globes, sandals, pianos, tables, chairs and books, and gives new insight into his innovative and radical artistic practice, from early works made of tape on drafting film, to those produced at the dawn of the digital age, which challenged and changed the concept of drawing as we know it.

Many of the drawings to be shown are studies for realised works and commissions, including what is probably Craig-Martin's most famous work - *An Oak Tree* (1973), consisting of an ordinary glass of water on an equally plain shelf, with a text that asserts the superiority of the artist's intention over the object itself; now in the Tate Collection, this work is recognized as a defining moment in the development of conceptual art. Also included is *Study for a neon drawing of an endlessly opening book for Margate*, 1974, for his first public commission, an outdoor neon sculpture for Margate Library; the work, called *Turning Pages*, was commissioned by Kent County Council and the Arts Council; it made in 1975 but was allowed to decay beyond repair. In 2010, the work was remade by the artist for the 2011 opening of the new Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate, to be formally opened on the 16 April.

Michael Craig-Martin was born in Dublin in 1941 and educated in the United States, where he studied at Yale University. He returned to Europe in the mid-1960s and was a key figure in the first generation of British conceptual artists. His role as a tutor at Goldsmith's College from 1974-1988 and 1994-2000, where he had a significant influence on two generations of young British artists, is widely acknowledged. Craig-Martin has had retrospectives at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (1989) and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (2006), and major solo exhibitions at National Art Centre, Tokyo (2007), Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria (2006), and at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1994). In 2006 he was appointed a Royal Academician. His work is in numerous museum collections including the Tate Gallery, London, the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, and MoMA, New York to name just a few.

The **Alan Cristea Gallery** is the largest dealer and publisher of 20th Century and contemporary prints in Europe, publishing works by the very best international artists as well as regularly showing paintings, works on paper, ceramics, sculpture and installations. The Alan Cristea Gallery is the sole worldwide representative for Michael Craig-Martin's limited edition prints and animations. For further information please visit www.alancristea.com

Visitor Information:

Title: Michael Craig-Martin Drawings: 1967 - 2002
Address: Alan Cristea Gallery: 31 & 34 Cork Street, London W1
Telephone: + 44 (0)20 7439 1866
Website: www.alancristea.com
Dates & Times: 5 May - 4 June; 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat
Admission: Free
Nearest Tube: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street

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Images available on request