

David Tremlett

3 Drawing Rooms

4 December 2013 – 21 April 2014

David Tremlett, best known for his site-specific wall drawings, makes a vast new work for Ikon, transforming its second floor galleries with geometric shapes, applied directly to the walls using pastel pigment and engine grease. Each of the three rooms has a contrasting composition: horizontal and vertical rectangular blocks of vivid colour, and grey and black, playing off the volumes of architectural space in order to ‘retune’ our perception of them.

Like all of Tremlett’s wall drawings, this work for Ikon has been conjured up in the artist’s imagination, before becoming scale studio drawings. The creation of the final work will take place over several weeks, the artist and his assistants applying the colour directly, painstakingly by hand.

Tremlett was born in Stickler, near Saint Austell, Cornwall in 1945 and grew-up on his parent’s farm. His formal art education began at Falmouth School of Art (1962–3). He went on to study sculpture at Birmingham College of Art (1963–66), then at the Royal College of Art (1966–69). Like other prominent artists of his generation who sought to define a relationship between conceptual art and sculpture (Gilbert and George, Hamish Fulton and Richard Long among them), Tremlett developed a practice that was the antithesis of the aesthetic principles of modernist sculpture. He embarked on a critical examination of what sculpture and indeed art could be; an interest in the creative process of making, rather than focusing on a final result, is something which has remained constant throughout the development of his career.

Tremlett refers to his work as objects, flat sculpture, rather than images which, for the artist, imply illusion. His compositions typically consist of geometric arrangements, abstract compositions of arcs, circles, trapezoids, text and line. While at once being formally constructed compositions of purely abstract elements, which emanate the sensual joy of colour and hue, and relationships between geometry and curved line, they speak too of things experienced by the artist, seen and done.

3 Drawing Rooms is supported by The Abbey Harris Mural Fund.

Ends.

Note to Editors:

1. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
2. A selection of images is shown below.
3. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and is funded using public funds from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
4. For more information, high-res images and to arrange an interview with the curator please contact Helen Stallard on 0774 033 9604 or email h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk

Sample images



David Tremlett

Artist's impression of
installation at Ikon
Gallery (2013)

Image courtesy the
artist



David Tremlett

Solo exhibition at
Galleria Massimo
Valsecchi, Milan
(2002-2005)

Image courtesy the
artist

IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
TEL. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / FAX. +44 (0) 121 248 0709
WEBSITE. www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892



David Tremlett with
assistants

Obidon, Portugal, 1993

Image courtesy the
artist



David Tremlett

Installation for the
exhibition *Intra-Muros*
(2004)

M.A.M.A.C., Nice

Image courtesy the
artist