

IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm / free entry

Ikon at Plinth

11 February – 19 March 2016

44 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3PA



Beatriz Milhazes, *Love and Peace* (2015). Ceramic. Limited edition of 100. 42 cm diameter, £500. Plinth Ikon 50 Edition.

Ikon in collaboration with Plinth presents a new pop-up initiative in central London from 11 February to 19 March 2016.

Located at 44 Great Russell Street, opposite the British Museum, the pop-up will showcase newly commissioned limited editions from acclaimed contemporary artists Cornelia Parker, Beatriz Milhazes, Richard Deacon, Richard Wilson and Ding Yi. Proceeds from these will support Ikon's 50th Anniversary Investment Fund, dedicated to the gallery's future artistic programme and the commissioning of new art work.

The editions are both collectors' items and perfect gifts. Beatriz Milhazes' *Love and Peace* plate (edition of 100, £500) features a design characteristically colourful and redolent of tropicalia whereas Ding Yi's silk scarf *Appearance of Crosses 2015-11* (edition of 500, £250) is an elegant web of cross-hatching in reds and greys. Richard Deacon's *Icon* (edition of 50, £2800) is more sculptural, a fine concrete piece cast from twisted wood. Wound up with potential energy it foils the fluidity of Richard Wilson's *Still Life Jug* (edition of 50, £3000), following the movement of a ceramic jug falling through space.

Lastly Cornelia Parker's *STOP* sign (edition of 20, £1000), in stark white on black, is at once funny and cautionary, encouraging a pause for thought in a world too full of thoughtless action.

In addition, 44 Great Russell Street will house further unique products by leading contemporary artists including mugs and plates by Gavin Turk, pure wool *Sheep* blankets by Julian Opie, hand-printed umbrellas by Duro Olowu and vibrant silk scarves by Paul Huxley. With prices ranging from £10 to £10,000, Plinth has created an opportunity for audiences to build a collection of iconic and affordable art works.

The space itself is a listed Georgian building dating from 1710, and many of its original features remain untouched, from the carved wooden window surrounds to the plaster cornicing, wood-panelled doors and fireplaces. These will be complemented by a carefully curated selection of reclaimed and vintage furniture including pieces from Alvar Aalto and Arne Jacobsen. The ground floor will feature the new limited editions displayed amongst original shop-fittings, while the first and second floor interiors will incorporate works by artists such as Hurvin Anderson, Fiona Banner, Marcel Dzama, Ryan Gander, Arturo Herrera, Roger Hiorns, David Shrigley, Gillian Wearing, Richard Wentworth and Alison Wilding. Everything is for sale, right down to the display cabinets.

Finally, the third floor will be a dedicated studio space, curated by Ikon. It is in this space where British artist Susan Collis will be creating a site-specific installation. Collis' work interrogates the value, monetary and cultural, assigned to objects that variously reject and conform to accepted notions of 'artwork.' Collis is interested in the shift in perception which necessarily takes place on realising, for instance, that the ostensibly accidental paint-drips on a stepladder are, in fact, an illusion created by the meticulous and opulent inlaying of opals. The value of high concept, literally precious substances, and the labour of the artist/artisan are called to throw each other into subtle relief.

Plinth aims to provide a new platform for unique artist-designed products and limited editions, creating a means by which a wide audience can access and own contemporary art. Centred on a spirit of openness, 44 Great Russell Street will be a kind of 'artist's salon' – a sentiment echoed by Ikon's Director Jonathan Watkins, who enthuses about the prospect of "beautiful furniture, armchairs, little coffee tables... It should be a place where people come to speak about art and relax."

Complementing the installation will be a programme of events, conversations and workshops – including Richard Wilson in conversation with Sir Nicholas Grimshaw (11 February), and Richard Deacon in conversation with Dr Gilda Williams (3 March). For more information please visit www.plinth.uk.com

The full range of Plinth limited editions are available online at www.plinth.uk.com.

Ikon at Plinth editions by Cornelia Parker, Beatriz Milhazes, Richard Deacon, Richard Wilson and Ding Yi are also available from 11 February online at www.ikon-gallery.org and at Ikon Shop, Brindleyplace, Birmingham (0121 248 0711).

Plinth is open Monday - Saturday, 10am-6pm

44 Great Russell Street (opposite the British Museum), London WC1B 3PA

Nearest tube station: Tottenham Court Road

Social Media Handles :

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery #plinthUK @PlinthUKart

Note to Editors:

1. For more information and high-res images please contact Emily Watkins at Plinth on 0203 479 5922 or email emily@plinth.uk.com
2. Plinth publishes unique products and limited editions by leading contemporary artists. Plinth is dedicated to making contemporary art accessible to a wider audience. www.plinth.uk.com
3. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. www.ikon-gallery.org
4. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free.
5. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ikongallery), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ikongallery) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ikongallery).
6. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

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Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892



Richard Wilson, *Still Life Jug* (2015). Handmade ceramic. Limited edition of 50. 40 x 59 x 28 cm, £3,000. Plinth Ikon 50 Edition.



Cornelia Parker, *STOP* (2015). Embossed enamel sign with hand-painted white lettering. Signed, limited edition of 20. 487 x 248 x 8mm, £1,000. Plinth Ikon 50 Edition.



Ding Yi, *Appearance of Crosses 2015-11* (2015). Silk charmeuse scarf with hand-rolled edges. Limited edition of 500. 140cm x 140cm, £250. Plinth Ikon 50 Edition. Published in collaboration with The Scarf Gallery.



Richard Deacon, *Icon* (2015). Hand-cast concrete. Limited edition of 50. 292 x 217 x 37mm, £2,800. Plinth Ikon 50 Edition.