

Associated Events

Easter Holidays Model Making Workshops
Tuesday 10 April, 2–4pm
Wednesday 11 April, 2–4pm
£4 per child

Glenn Howells Architects, Bradford Street
Birmingham B5 6ET

Booking essential, places are limited

Families are invited to design and construct their own architectural model with Pierre Greenway, designer and maker at Glenn Howells Architects. This workshop is suitable for children aged over 7, accompanied by an adult. When booking please indicate children's ages.
glennhowells.co.uk

Repeated Cities

Wednesday 18 April, 1.30–4pm – £6

Booking essential, places are limited

A tour of Ikon's Langlands & Bell exhibition followed by a guided walk led by Alessandro Columbano, Senior Lecturer at Birmingham School of Architecture and Design, exploring the architectural landscape of Birmingham. Join us for refreshments and conversation afterwards in a local public house. Please wear footwear appropriate to urban walking.

Langlands & Bell Round Table

Tuesday 5 June, 6–8pm

Event ticket only – £3

Event ticket plus signed Langlands & Bell catalogue – £13 (for collection on 5 June)

Booking essential

Chaired by Niall Hobhouse, collector, architectural writer and founder of Drawing Matter Trust, this event includes a round table discussion with Langlands & Bell on notions of 'campus', where people meet and share ideas, adopted by global technology companies. Other speakers include Claudia Dutson, PhD, lecturer on the Information Experience Design MA, School of Architecture, Royal College of Art, London.

Find out more

Visit the Resource Room where you can find a selection of books, audio and film.

If you have any questions about the exhibition please ask the Information Assistants in the gallery.

How to book

Book online at ikon-gallery.org or call us on 0121 248 0708. All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated.

Stay in touch

Subscribe to our e-bulletin at ikon-gallery.org and find us on [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [k](#) [o](#) [n](#) [g](#) [a](#) [l](#) [l](#) [e](#) [r](#) [y](#)

Ikon Gallery
Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708
ikon-gallery.org

Open Tuesday – Sunday
and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am–5pm
Free entry, donations welcome

Exhibition supporters

Langland & Bell's exhibition *Internet Giants : Masters of the Universe* is supported by Glenn Howells Architects.

Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands, Birmingham City University, Cass Art and the Michael Marsh Charitable Trust.

IKON

Exhibition Guide

Langlands & Bell

Internet Giants : Masters of the Universe

21 March – 10 June 2018

First Floor Galleries

As with the cathedrals of the middle ages, the baroque palaces and gardens of the enlightenment, and the factories and railway stations of the industrial revolution, one of the things we are exploring is whether the new architecture of the internet giants is era defining – the architecture of the 21st century.

Ikon presents an exhibition of new work by British artists Ben Langlands and Nikki Bell, marking the 40th year of their artistic partnership. Featuring new, iconic architecture of global technology companies such as Apple, Facebook, Alibaba and Google, it includes a series of relief sculptures, installations, computer imagery and portraits that explore the increasingly profound influence these companies have on our lives in the age of 'Big Data'.

Often, Langlands & Bell work from plans and other drawings they find through internet research, sometimes representing buildings yet to be completed. Using both digital and analogue processes, they create physical models, reminiscent of those traditionally found in an architect's office. These include *Google, Charleston East* (2018), offering a plan view of Google's new global HQ, and *Facebook, Menlo Park* (2017), the largest open-plan office in the world where the staff use micro scooters to travel around the campus. These are built environments, above all, that mean something, and are thus ideal subject matter for the artists, as they explain:

Nearly all of our art explores human social and cultural relationships, from the personal to the political, through architecture and the coded structures

of communication and exchange that surround us. We see architecture as the most tangible and enduring record of the way we live. The internet giants continue to grow exponentially, becoming ever more powerful by the day, and exercising an increasingly profound influence over our lives. They are reshaping the cultures, politics and economies of societies all over the world comprehensively.

At first glance the futuristic appearances of the new headquarters of the media companies characterise the digital age: flagships for voyages of discovery in virtual worlds, whose campuses, seamlessly translated from computer screens, convey a complexity of attitudes and values in keeping with a brave new world. A series of eight relief sculptures, encased in square frames with circular mounts, offer a uniform presentation of monumental architecture. The fact that these companies deal in intangible commodities means that they do not require functionalist design solutions, but rather are asserting themselves through symbolic forms.

We're isolating the subject like a specimen in a museum, like a butterfly or moth, against different colours, to focus on it. We exclude other elements, such as the landscape or a parking lot for example. The aesthetics of the source material, as well as the subject matter, inspires us to turn it into an object of contemplation. It is an intuitive process.

A digital print of Apple Park - which replaced the company's original campus in 2017 - presents the iconic ring-shaped building in angled sections. This exhibition includes a digital animation of the "Masters of the Universe" and a new wall painting, *Your Thoughts Construct Patterns Like Scaffolding In Your Mind* (2018), based on a quote by Steve Jobs, the late co-founder of Apple, and produced in collaboration with Birmingham-based street artist Dan "Newso" Lickiss. A series of pixelated "mosaic" icons of Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, Sergey Brin and Jimmy Wales, combined in diptychs with their inspirational utterances, "I want to put a ding in the universe" and



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“I’m trying to make the world a more open place”, appear as religious icons for the information age.

The digital animation, *Pantocrator* (2018) – derived from the Greek “ruler of all” – comprises 26 portraits of and quotes by the tech company CEOs, including:

Alex Karp – Palantir Technologies
I’M LOSING MY ABILITY TO BE COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS

Ben Silbermann – Pinterest
DON’T TAKE TOO MUCH ADVICE

Bill Gates – Microsoft
I DON’T THINK CULTURE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DESCRIBE

Brian Chesky – AirBnB
BUILD SOMETHING ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE LOVE, NOT SOMETHING ONE MILLION PEOPLE KIND OF LIKE

Dick Costolo – Twitter
TWITTER IS A GLOBAL TOWN SQUARE

Drew Houston – Dropbox
YOU ONLY HAVE TO BE RIGHT ONCE

Elon Musk – Space Ex, Tesla
YOU NEED TO EMBRACE CHANGE IF THE ALTERNATIVE IS DISASTER

Jack Dorsey – Twitter
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE BE THE UNEXPECTED

Jack Ma – Alibaba
I DON’T WANT TO BE LIKED I WANT TO BE RESPECTED

Jeff Bezos – Amazon
IT’S NOT AN EXPERIMENT IF YOU KNOW IT’S GOING TO WORK

Jensen Huang – Nvidia
THE DISPLAY IS THE COMPUTER

Jimmy Wales – Wikipedia
I THINK THAT REALITY EXISTS AND THAT IT’S KNOWABLE

Julian Assange – WikiLeaks
TRUE INFORMATION DOES GOOD

Larry Page – Google
THERE IS AN IMPORTANT ARTISTIC COMPONENT IN WHAT WE DO

Lei Jun – Xiaomi Inc.
THINGS GET MUCH EASIER IF ONE JUMPS ON THE BANDWAGON

Luke Nosek – PayPal
TECHNOLOGY IS A WAY TO HELP EVERYBODY ON THE PLANET

Marissa Mayer – Google ,Yahoo
YOU HAVE TO MAKE WORDS LESS HUMAN AND MORE A PIECE OF THE MACHINE

Mark Zuckerberg – Facebook
I’M TRYING TO MAKE THE WORLD A MORE OPEN PLACE

Mike Krieger – Instagram
JUST BECAUSE YOU’VE GOOGLED SOMETHING DOESN’T MEAN YOU’VE LEARNED

Peter Thiel – PayPal
THE FUTURE IS LIMITLESS

Pierre Omidyar – eBay
WHATEVER FUTURE YOU’RE BUILDING, DON’T TRY TO PROGRAM EVERYTHING

Sergey Brin – Google
WE WANT GOOGLE TO BE THE THIRD HALF OF YOUR BRAIN

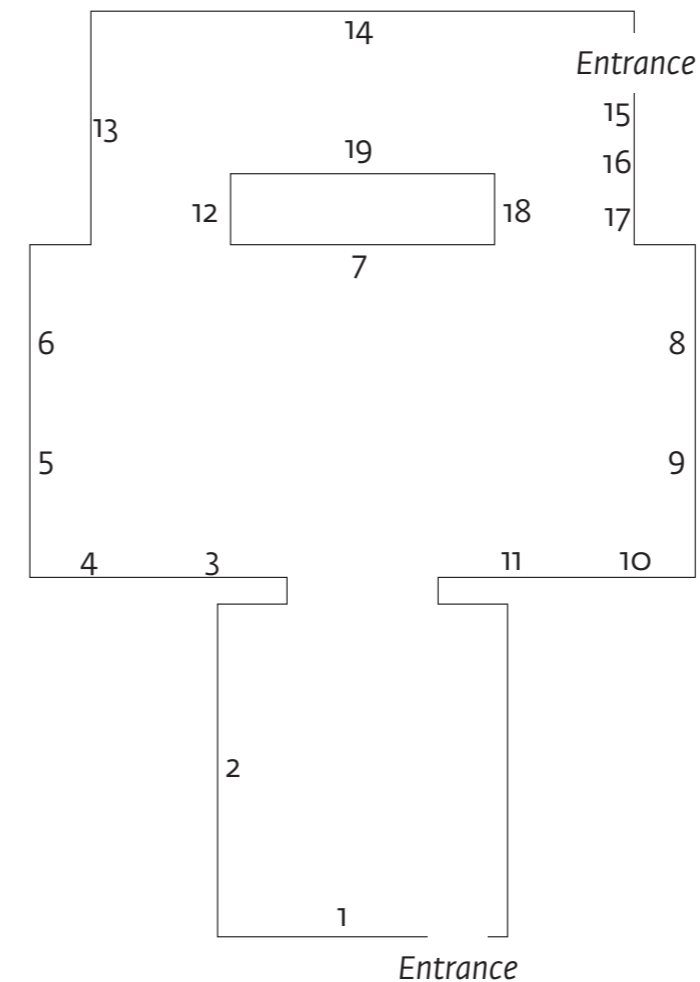
Sheryl Sandberg – Facebook
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WEREN’T AFRAID

Steve Jobs – Apple
I WANT TO PUT A DING IN THE UNIVERSE

Travis Kalanick – Uber
YOU CAN BEND REALITY BUT YOU CANNOT BREAK IT

Vitalik Buterin – Ethereum, Bitcoin
I REMEMBER KNOWING FOR A LONG TIME THAT I WAS KIND OF ABNORMAL

First Floor Galleries



1. *Icon (Sergey Brin)*, 2018
2. *Google, Charleston East*, 2018
3. *Suning.com, Nanjing*, 2018
4. *Baidu, Beijing*, 2018
5. *IBM, Beijing*, 2018
6. *Alibaba, Hangzhou*, 2018
7. *Facebook, Menlo Park*, 2017
8. *Apple, Cupertino*, 2018
9. *Gates Family Foundation, Seattle*, 2018
10. *Apple, Sunny Vale*, 2017
11. *Nvidia, Santa Clara*, 2018
12. *Icon (Steve Jobs)*, 2018
13. *Your Thoughts Construct Patterns Like Scaffolding In Your Mind*, 2018
14. *Pantocrator*, 2018 (3’25”)
15. *Icon (Jeff Bezos)*, 2018
16. *Icon (Bill Gates)*, 2018
17. *Icon (Mark Zuckerberg)*, 2018
18. *Icon (Jimmy Wales)*, 2018
19. *Infinite Loop (Apple, Cupertino)*, 2018

Clément Cogitore *Assange Dancing* 21 March – 10 June Tower Room – Second Floor

Ikon presents *Assange Dancing* (2012) by French filmmaker, photographer and artist Clément Cogitore.

Screened in Ikon’s Tower Room, *Assange Dancing* was made using amateur video footage, shot and posted online by a DJ at Reykjavik nightclub Glaubar in 2011. In it we see activist and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange dancing in utter solitude on a nearly deserted dancefloor. Yet by the force of his network, he represents a crowd in and of himself. By revisiting the image in a slow-motion loop, Cogitore endows the dance with the quality of a ritual trance for casting out demons.

Clément Cogitore studied in Strasbourg, France, where he developed an artistic practice half way between cinema and contemporary art, combining film, video, installations and photographs. His award-winning films have been shown at a number of international festivals, including Cannes, Locarno, Lisbon and Montreal. His work has also been exhibited in museums around the world, including Palais de Tokyo Paris, Centre Georges Pompidou Paris, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Quebec Museum of Fine Arts and MoMA, New York.

In 2015, Clément Cogitore’s debut feature film, *Neither Heaven Nor Earth*, a supernatural thriller set during the war in Afghanistan, premiered in Cannes Critics’ Week where it received the Foundation Gan Prize.

Presented as part of Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018

Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps.