



## Bill Woodrow and Richard Deacon: Shared Drawing

Holtermann Fine Art  
30 Cork Street  
London W1S 3NG

1<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
Hours 11-6 Tuesday – Friday; 11-5 Saturday

Bill Woodrow and Richard Deacon have been making sculpture together for over thirty years. Following Holtermann's recent show *Bill Woodrow and Richard Deacon: Shared Sculptures* (2021), this exhibition showcases their recent collaborative works on paper from the series *We Thought About It A Lot*.

"Thinking about these new drawings in relation to the democratic processes of their previous shared works brings to the fore the rich sculptural life these flat works enjoy. Construction has been exchanged for layering and over-layering as each artist takes it in turn to tell their side of the story, building up out of the surface of the paper, piece by piece, drawing/painting by painting/drawing. They are very 'mixed media', to use a term that came into its own in the 1970s when these artists were starting off. Most employ collage, with cut-out paper and fabric, and alongside more familiar art materials such as ink, paint, graphite, wax crayon and oil stick, we find more surprising constituents like coffee and natural dyes, oak gall, sloe berries and red wine. One of the artists even fashioned his own felt-tip pen to deploy the home-made ink they had produced.

The surprising and exploratory hybrid life that their shared work has always had – at once for them as artists and us as viewers – shines powerfully through these drawings. So too does the energies and pleasures of actual making as time and time again in these new drawings, we find motifs sparking off each other: soft against hard, spiky geometries combining with watery and cloudy forms, and subtle washes contrasting with powerful colour clashes. Working together in Woodrow's studio-laboratory, away from home but at home, we can see both artists – and 'Bill Woodrow and Richard Deacon' once again in their element."

Dr Jon Wood

## About the artists:

### Bill Woodrow (b. 1948)

Following his first institutional solo exhibition in 1972 at the Whitechapel Gallery, London, Woodrow went on to represent Britain at Biennales in Sydney (1982), Paris (1982, 1985) and São Paulo (1983). He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1986 and participated in Documenta 8, Kassel in 1987. He was elected a Royal Academician in 2002 and had a major retrospective at the Royal Academy of Arts, London in 2013. His sculpture, *Celloswarm* (2002), was included in the Frieze London 2019 Sculpture Park. A similar piece, *Clockswarm* (2001), was on view in The Box at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery concurrently.

Selected solo exhibitions include those at Modern Art Oxford (1983); ICA, Boston (1985); The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (1986); Tate, London (1988 and 1996); Seattle Art Museum (1988); Chisenhale Gallery, London (1993); Camden Arts Centre (1995); South London Gallery, London (2001) and Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2005). *The Ledge*, a large-scale public artwork, initially commissioned for the Folkestone Triennial (2017), was acquired permanently by Folkestone Artworks, the UK's largest urban outdoor contemporary art exhibition.

Woodrow's work is held in numerous public collections including Museum of Modern Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art; New York; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Tate, London; British Museum, London; British Council, London; Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington; Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museo Tamayo, Mexico City; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal and Kunsthaus Zürich amongst many others.

Bill Woodrow is represented by Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London.

Website: [www.billwoodrow.com](http://www.billwoodrow.com)

### Richard Deacon (b. 1949)

Richard Deacon's work was the subject of a large-scale survey at Tate Britain in early 2014. In 2015/16 a ten-year survey – *On The Other Side* – toured to museums in Switzerland, Azerbaijan and Germany. A collected edition of his writings, *So, If, And, But* was published in English and in German in 2014. In 2016 The Folkwang Museum in Essen, Germany mounted a full retrospective of his drawings and prints *Richard Deacon Drawings and Prints 1968 – 2016* with a substantial accompanying catalogue.

In 2017 San Diego Museum of Fine Art showed *What You See Is What You Get* a survey of Deacon's work drawn mainly from American collections. The same year there were solo exhibitions at the Middelheim Museum in Antwerp (*Never Mind*), at the City Art Gallery in Prague (*Free Assembly*) and at the Kunsthalle Vogelmann in Heilbronn (*About Time*). In 2018 Deacon made a first solo show at the Beijing Commune Gallery in Beijing. Large scale permanent public works have been commissioned in many countries from New Zealand to the USA and throughout Europe. One of the first of these was *Once Upon A Time, 1990*, on the abutment of the old Redheugh Bridge in Gateshead. The most recent commissions are in Beijing and in Tokyo and, in partnership with the artist Mrdjan Bajić, a pedestrian bridge and major sculpture in Belgrade.

He continues to write about other artists, most recently on the Portuguese sculptor Rui Sanches.

Since 1990 he has worked in partnership with Bill Woodrow and made a considerable body of 'shared sculptures' and, more recently, works on paper. These were first shown at Chisenhale Gallery (*Only The Lonely & other shared sculptures 1993*) and different bodies of work have been exhibited since.

Richard Deacon was awarded the Turner Prize in 1987, elected to the Royal Academy in 1998 and to the Akademie der Künste in Berlin in 2010.

He is represented by various galleries including Lisson Gallery in London, Marian Goodman Gallery in New York, Galerie Ropac in Paris and Salzburg and Galerie Schulte in Berlin.

Website: [www.richarddeacon.net](http://www.richarddeacon.net)

**About Holtermann Fine Art**

Holtermann Fine Art has been dealing internationally in 20th century and contemporary art since the early 1980s. Holtermann has produced and sold important site-specific and permanent sculptures by Claes Oldenburg, Tony Oursler and Tony Cragg to public and private collections. Holtermann has instigated and organized large scale travelling exhibitions of work by Tony Cragg in the US, China and Taiwan as well as a large show with Michael Craig-Martin in China. These exhibitions have been at major state and private museums, including the Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; CAFAM, Beijing and the Hubei National Museum, Wuhan, with accompanying catalogues. Holtermann Fine Art has been instrumental in the formation of several important private museum collections and has successfully negotiated sales to public and private institutions of works by artists including Georg Baselitz, Tony Cragg, Robert Gober, Anselm Kiefer, Edvard Munch, Claes Oldenburg and Charles Ray. Museums that have acquired work through Holtermann include the Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo, Hubei National Museum, Wuhan, the Kistefos Museum, Norway, and M+, Hong Kong. Holtermann opened its first public space on Cork Street in Mayfair in 2019. Shows at the gallery expands Holtermann's core activity of showing and placing important sculptural works in urban and natural settings through curated shows setting individual works in historical and cultural contexts thereby contributing to the dialogue on an artist's oeuvre, relationships and position. Recent shows have included works by Georg Baselitz, Antony Gormley, Sterling Ruby and Woodrow/Deacon as well as younger artists like Tony Matelli, Jorge Otero-Pailos, Charlie Roberts and Borden Capalino.