

Spencer Finch

Ex Nihilo

52-54 Bell Street

21 March – 28 April 2012

Wonder - is not precisely Knowing
And not precisely Knowing not -

Emily Dickinson, 1874

Lisson Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition by artist Spencer Finch. Exploring the process of making something from nothing, Finch presents a series of works, across a broad range of media, inspired specifically by the actuality of his studio. At the core of Finch's practice is his on-going investigation into the nature of light, colour, memory and perception: he uses scientific method to poetic effect, examining the mechanics and mystery of perception.

For the large-scale work on paper, *Studio Window Infrared* (2012), Finch measured the temperature of the studio window by affixing 76 thermometers against the glass. He then translated these temperature ranges into oil pastel by assigning certain temperature ranges to specific colours; an ephemeral sensory experience ultimately concretised in abstract colour.

In *Paper Moon (Studio Wall at Night)* (2009) a flash light attached to a model train set and a series of filtered bulbs are used to recreate the qualities of the light – street lights and car headlamps - that shines through the windows of Finch's Brooklyn studio at night. The resulting overlapping shadows transform the gallery walls into Finch's temporal experience of his crepuscular studio.

Paths Through The Studio (2012) is a series of oil pastel works on paper that map each of Finch's movements through the studio every morning for 21 days: each path is represented by a different coloured line. Finch found inspiration for the series from an Edo Period Japanese wallpaper design based on the paths through a paddy field. As in much of his work, Finch documents events he has either directly observed or that hold particular historical resonance, distilling these observations into a unique and compelling visual language.

Inherent in Spencer Finch's work is the tension between the objective investigations of science and the subjectivity of perception and lived experience. His work is endowed with a melancholy that comes from what he describes as "the impossible desire to see oneself seeing".

Notes to Editors

In May 2012 Finch will unveil a major public art work on the frontage of The Quadrant 3 building in Soho, London. Commissioned by Modus Operandi and The Crown Estate, the piece will be a graphic expression of the energy of the life within this new development. Like an architectural electrocardiogram, 5 channels of horizontal coloured LEDs connected to five data streams will convey what Finch calls 'the vital signs' of life within the building ie:

1) Power Consumption

- 2) Recycled rainwater usage
- 3) Hydrogen Fuel Cell (as a % of the total power used)
- 4) Ambient temperature
- 5) Lift operations

Finch will unveil another public architectural commission at the Johns Hopkins Medical Centre, Baltimore (Spring 2012) and presents a major exhibition at The Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design from 24 February to 29 July 2012.

About the artist

Spencer Finch (b. 1962) has exhibited internationally at major institutions. Solo exhibitions include Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL (2011); Emily Dickinson Museum, Amherst, MA (2011); Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2010); Frac des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France (2010); Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane (2009); Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee (2008); MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (2007). Group shows include: Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, CA (2011); Folkestone Triennial, Folkestone (2011); Hayward Gallery, London (2010); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010); 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice (2009); The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2004). Selected public projects include High Line public commission (2009) and Park Avenue Armory, New York (2008).

Exhibition Facts

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

Location: 52-54 Bell Street, London, NW1 5DA

Tel: + 44(0)20 7724 2739

For press information and images please contact:

Toby Kidd or Filipa Mendes at JB Pelham PR

Tel: +44 (0)20 8969 3959

Email: toby@jbpelhampr.com or filipa@jbpelhampr.com