

# Robert Mangold New Paintings and Works on Paper The Ring Series

9 September – 3 October 2009  
52-54 Bell Street

- A selection of new paintings and works on paper from Mangold's most recent 'Ring' series
- Latest works by leading minimalist painter from New York
- Exhibiting simultaneously with Lisson Presents 5 – focusing on work of Melvin Moti and Florian Pumhösl

In his eighth exhibition at Lisson Gallery since his first show here in 1973, Robert Mangold presents a selection of new paintings and works on paper made this year.

Mangold seeks an equilibrium between the recurring elements in his work: simple geometric forms, coloured with hand-made tints, and often curvilinear lines hand-drawn within these forms. The works are deceptively simple and 'minimalist', demonstrating a seemingly infinite variety of invention and nuance within self-imposed geometric constraints.

Mangold almost always works in extensive series, often carried through both paintings and works on paper. Here he presents examples from his most recent 'Ring' series, each a kind of visual conundrum in which linear figures establish their formal presence within the infinite space of the ring-shaped ground.

**Robert Mangold** was born in 1937. He lives and works in upstate New York.

Since his first solo exhibition in 1964, Mangold's work has been exhibited extensively worldwide, including solo exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, 1971; Kunsthalle Basel, 1977 and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1982. His work has been included three times in Documenta (1972, 1977, 1982) and four times in the Whitney Biennial (1979, 1983, 1985, 2004). He recently showed work from the 1980s at the Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art, London, and will present a major exhibition of drawings and works on paper at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York from October this year.

Mangold's work is in many major international collections including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and Tate, London.

## Lisson Presents 5

9 September – 3 October 2009  
29 Bell Street

**Lisson Presents 5** examines abstraction as a system of representation. Central to the display is **Melvin Moti's** 35mm film *The Prisoner's Cinema* (2008) and a new series of assemblages by **Florian Pumhösl**, which will be presented together with works by **Art & Language, Spencer Finch, Ceal Floyer, Shirazeh Houshahar, John Latham, Sol LeWitt** and **Lee Ufan**.

The exhibition questions the abstract dimension of art, as a historical notion based on a process of self-definition and self-reference. The artists selected use abstraction in different ways, investigating the mind as constructor of forms, which in turn generate variations and possibilities for complex systems of representation. Some of the works in the exhibition explore the possibility of defining an 'occult' primeval and universal visual vocabulary, while others seek and record patterns – formal or behavioural – in natural or cultural manifestations. Abstraction can also be seen as a strategy to turn the rejection of a figurative dimension and a position of passivity into a creative one, through the automatic creation of images.

*The Prisoner's Cinema* is a phenomenon recorded in conditions of prolonged psychosensorial deprivation, the brain responding by generating its own visual hallucinations, which take the form of geometric light shapes. The existence of universal 'form constants', recurring independently of a subject's interpretation or background, supports the notion of a *formalism of the occult*. This can be interpreted as a system of sensorial perception that pre-exists culture and language and takes place in the mind emptied by all thoughts, at 'point blank'. The 'form constants' can therefore be considered as a form of abstraction, removed from all specificity. Melvin Moti's film explores the displacement occurring in the self-perception of consciousness, where the subject is a spectator and a witness of his own sensations and thoughts. The film follows separate durational structures, where an underlying tension is articulated between the visible and the spoken, as the visual imagery is manifested with a degree of restraint and language offers an inadequate attempt to translate it into words.

Under the title *Moving Stage*, Florian Pumhösl's series of assemblages are composed of groups of four slightly inclined rectangular panels, covered in black cloth, on which shapes cut out of glass pane are arranged as part of a systematic geometric pattern. The patterns follow specific formal themes and are evocative of progressions, ramps or templates for dresses. They refer to concepts of the modern stage as a suggestion of space through the use of a simple geometric vocabulary. The works follow the principles of modern collage, where each element can be identified as a fragment of a pre-existing order, following a temporal sequence rather than a spatial construction.

## Notes to Editors

**Lisson Presents** is a series of exhibitions devised for the 2009 programme at 29 Bell Street. Exhibitions include a focused presentation of an artist not currently represented by the gallery, a new body of work by a Lisson artist and a selection of works by Lisson Gallery artists from 1967 to now. Since its foundation, Lisson Gallery's reputation has had two defining characteristics: its support for art with a conceptual foundation, and its championing of successive generations of British and international artists. Lisson Presents has been exploring different aspects of this dual ethos, constrained neither by fashion or history instead drawing on the dynamic interplay between tradition and invention.

### Artist Biographies

**Melvin Moti** was born in 1977 and lives and works in Rotterdam. Since completing his studies at the Academy in Tilburg and his post-graduate residency at De Ateliers, Amsterdam, he has exhibited widely in Europe, at the Frac Champagne in Reims, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Kunstverein Köln, MMK Zolamt and at the 5th Berlin Biennale.

**Florian Pumhösl**, was born in 1971 and lives and works in Vienna. Solo exhibitions of his work include Mudam, Luxembourg, Neue Kunsthalle St Gallen, Zurich Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne and Secession, Vienna. The artist has participated in Documenta 12, the 27. Sao Paulo Biennale and dreams and conflicts: The Dictatorship of the Viewer, Venice Biennale. Upcoming projects include the group exhibition Modernologies at Macba, Barcelona in September 2009 and will have a solo exhibition at Mumok in Vienna in 2011.

### Visitor Information

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 11am-5pm  
Admission: Free  
Nearest Tube Station: Edgware Road