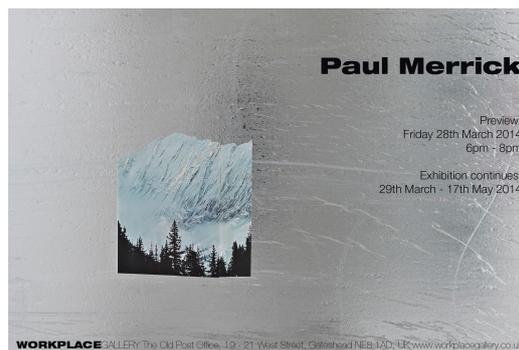


Paul Merrick

Preview:
6pm – 8pm Friday 28th March 2014

29th March – 17th May 2014
Tuesday – Saturday
11am – 5pm or by appointment



Workplace Gallery is delighted to present our second solo exhibition of new work by Paul Merrick.

Paul Merrick combines painting with sculpture and the *made* with the *ready-made*. Investigating colour, materiality, and architectural and spatial arrangement in relationship to the history of Painting, Merrick's recent work is the result of a sustained interrogation of painting through the found object.

In a new body of work Merrick has drawn upon colour – coded variations of standard 4 x 4 foot units of plasterboard. Selecting each board from a standardised industrial lexicon of building materials, he creates 'surrogate' Colour Field paintings, which are then punctuated by collages cut from an ongoing archive of *National Geographic* and *Wallpaper* magazines. Delicately pinned to each board are faded pseudo-scientific photographs of foreign and exotic plants (monolithic Cacti and smaller species of desert flora). Grouped and pinned in faded constellations and pitched against images of mountains and wilderness – *The Great Outdoors* - alongside the more contemporary escapology of *Wallpaper Magazine's* luxurious Modernist interiors.

Merrick's collages combine nostalgia for the global reportage of the past in dialogic compositions with images and motifs of style and decadence; creating pictorial iconographies and mythological narratives. Set upon metallic surfaces and pastel hues that reflect back America as consumed through the eyes of a working class Britain of the 1970's and 80's.

Paul Merrick was born in 1973 in Oxford, UK. Exhibitions include *RIFF*, Baltic|39, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, *Tip of the Iceberg*, Contemporary Art Society, London, UK, *SURFACE*, Gallery@The Civic, Barnsley, UK, *Paul Merrick*, HIVE Gallery, Barnsley, UK, *MALEREI Painting as Object*, Transition Gallery, London, UK and NewBridge Space, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, *ROTATE*, Contemporary Art Society & Shortlist Media, London, *The New Domestic Landscape*, Northern gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, UK, *Northern Futures*, The Civic, Barnsley, Yorkshire, UK, *Brut, Brut*, Embassy Gallery, Edinburgh Annuale, UK, *Blue Star Red Wedge*, Glasgow International, UK, *Playing Fields*, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, UK. Merrick lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Kindly supported by

