
Alan Cristea Gallery

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Exhibition Information May 2017

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Ian Davenport: Melismatic

8 June - 31 July 2017

Private View Wednesday 7 June, 6 - 7.30 pm



Images: Ian Davenport, *Poured Triptych Etching Ambassadors (After Holbein)*, 2017; Ian Davenport, *Poured Triptych Etching Primavesi (After Klimt)*, 2017.
Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London

This summer the Alan Cristea Gallery, London, will unveil a major new body of etchings and monoprints by Ian Davenport (b.1966), YBA and graduate of Goldsmiths College of Art, London. Davenport, who is driven by an enduring fascination with the materiality and process of painting and printmaking, has made a series of monumental triptychs, his largest prints to date, inspired by the colour compositions of historical paintings by Hans Holbein, Gustav Klimt, and Vincent van Gogh. These works will be shown alongside further etchings and a series of splatter screenprints, a departure from Davenport's signature technique of vertical lines cascading down into rich puddles of colour. At the same time as this exhibition in London, visitors to the 57th Venice Biennale will be greeted by a monumental painted installation covering the façade of The Swatch Pavilion, for whom he has also designed a Swatch Art Special watch.

Melismatic, a musical term which refers to the singing of a single syllable of text while moving between several different notes in succession, includes Davenport's largest and most ambitious editions to date. Four monumental etched triptychs, each an orchestration of 42 different colour combinations, are rendered in fluid lines of colour which pool to form puddles at the bottom of the compositions and each measure 177 x 255 cm.

The Ambassadors (After Holbein), 2017, and *Primavesi (After Klimt)*, 2017, are abstract interpretations of the colours used in Holbein's famous painting, *The Ambassador*, 1533, and Gustav Klimt's 1912 painting, *Portrait of Mada Primavesi*.

These works are accompanied by two unique monoprint etchings, entitled *The Marriage (After Perugino)*, 2017 and *Elise (After Van Gogh)*, 2017, each one a more daring exploration of colour and line. These prints will be complemented by a recent series of etchings, under the group title *Colourcade Buzz*, made using chine collé.

Experimentation, improvisation, and exploring the accidental are a vital part of the creative process for Davenport. The second part of the exhibition Davenport switches to a totally new format in which the printed colours are splattered rather than poured. This completely new departure in his work will appear in the form of six screenprints and numerous hand-painted versions of the same compositions.

Davenport, who remains one of the youngest ever, nominees for the Turner Prize, has had over forty solo shows across Europe and the USA, and major commissions around the world including *Poured Lines: Southwark Street*, 2006, in London, a 48 metre wide painting on a bridge which is one of the largest permanent public artworks in the UK. *Melismatic* is Davenport's fourth solo exhibition at the Alan Cristea Gallery, who are the exclusive worldwide representative for Davenport's original prints.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an interview between Ian Davenport and writer and social historian Michael Bracewell.

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About Ian Davenport

Ian Davenport was born in Kent in 1966. He graduated from Goldsmiths College of Art in 1988 and as one of the generation of Young British Artists, he participated in the seminal 1988 exhibition Freeze. In 1991 he was shortlisted for the Turner Prize and in 1999 was a prize winner in the John Moores Exhibition, Liverpool. Since then he has exhibited extensively across the world, and undertaken several large scale site-specific murals and commissions including the 50m long mural under the bridge on Southwark Street, London (2006), and a commission for the Olympic Games temporarily installed outside Tate Modern, London (2012).

Davenport's work is held in numerous public collections including the Arts Council of Great Britain; British Council; Tate, London; Nuffield College, Oxford University; Museum of Modern Art, La Spezia, Italy; Weltkunst Collection, Zurich; Borusan Art Gallery, Istanbul and Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas.

The first monograph dedicated to Davenport was published by Thames & Hudson in 2014. In 2016 he collaborated with Dior to produce a limited edition Lady Dior Bag and 2017 will see a further commission with Swatch watches. Davenport lives and works in London. The Alan Cristea Gallery is the exclusive worldwide representative for Ian Davenport's original prints.

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About Alan Cristea Gallery

Prompted by a continuing ambition to 'paper the world in original art', Alan Cristea opened his eponymous gallery in 1995. The gallery is the primary representative for a number of renowned contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists, and is one of the world's leading publishers of original contemporary prints and editions. Having expanded considerably over the past 21 years, in October 2016 the gallery moved to new, larger, bespoke premises, better suited to the representation of the gallery's growing roster of celebrated and international artists.

The Alan Cristea Gallery is entirely artist-led and is dedicated to assisting artists in bringing new bodies of work to fruition, including editions, works on paper, paintings, sculpture or installations, which are presented in a continuous programme of public exhibitions, events and art fairs. Alongside this, the gallery also draws on Alan's 50 years of experience in the art world to provide unrivalled access to the best examples of original prints by the modern masters of the 20th and 21st centuries, from Naum Gabo, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso to Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney and Andy Warhol.

The gallery continues to extend the legacy of some of art history's most important figures through its work with the Estates of Josef and Anni Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Naum Gabo, Richard Hamilton and Tom Wesselmann. Exhibitions for 2017 include Emma Stibbon, Michael Craig-Martin and Marie Harnett.

Visitor information:

Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm

Sat 11am - 2pm

We are closed on Sundays, bank holiday weekends and public holidays.

Travel:

Piccadilly or Green Park underground station

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#IanDavenport #Melismatic