

David Batchelor

Flatlands

Exhibition 4 May – 14 July 2013

David Batchelor (born 1955, Dundee) is best known for his vividly-coloured sculptural installations of illuminated lightboxes, industrial dollies, and other found objects. These three-dimensional works perhaps belie the fact that the root of his interest is and always has been in drawing, painting, abstraction and the monochrome – preoccupations that are best charted in his immensely-varied two-dimensional work. This exhibition is the first in-depth presentation of David Batchelor's drawings and paintings.

Having originally studied painting, Batchelor has, over the last twenty years, made colour his leitmotif. Not the colour found in nature, but the synthetic colour of the illuminated street sign and lurid glare of the nocturnal metropolis. Whether using conventional materials such as pencil, ink, pastel, gouache and acrylic, or highlighter pen, spray or gloss paint and industrial tape, whether making drawings or paintings intended to be simply drawings or paintings or making carefully-plotted diagrams of or proposals for sculpture, Batchelor's two-dimensional works show how formal rigour and a modernist aesthetic can be subverted by the deployment of intense, exuberant colour.

This exhibition represents a first considered attempt to analyse Batchelor's graphic register by critically reflecting on his use of surface, painting, drawing, and colour. It will present work created over the last two decades, including drawings, paintings, proposals, diagrams and preparatory drawings for sculpture.

The exhibition is curated by Andrea Schlieker, who worked with Batchelor as Director of the Folkestone Triennial in 2008, and will be accompanied by a catalogue with an interview with the artist conducted by Schlieker, and new writing by Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery and internationally renowned writer and curator Rudi Fuchs.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Spike Island, Bristol, where it will be presented in November 2013.

Media Enquiries contact

Press and Marketing Manager **Louise Warmington**

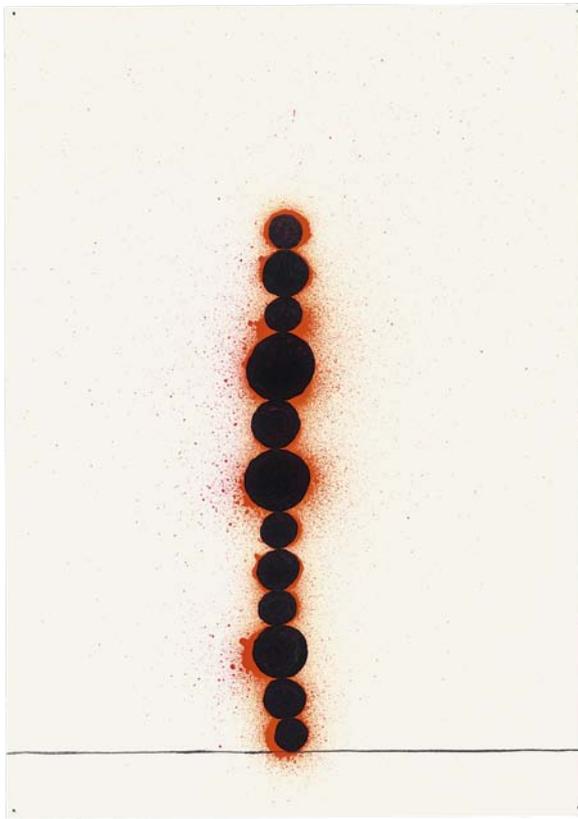
P 0131 226 8182 **E** marketing@fruitmarket.co.uk

45 Market Street,
Edinburgh EH1 1DF, Scotland

P +44 (0) 131 225 2383
F +44 (0) 131 220 3130

info@fruitmarket.co.uk
www.fruitmarket.co.uk

The
Fruitmarket
Gallery



New edition *Atomic Orange*, 2013, 30 x 21cm
Screenprint in an edition of 100, signed and numbered by the artist (pictured left).

This new screenprint has been generously created by David Batchelor specially for this exhibition. All proceeds from sales will directly benefit The Fruitmarket Gallery and Spike Island, Bristol. Price: £120 unframed, £175 framed

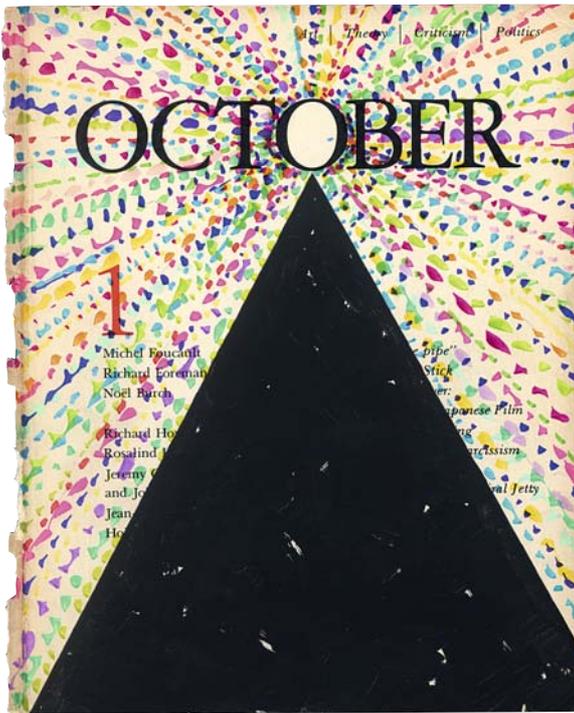
New publication *David Batchelor: Flatlands*, £16.95
A new publication will accompany the exhibition. Published by The Fruitmarket Gallery, it is fully illustrated with images of the paintings and drawings in the exhibition – reproduced here for the first time – and features newly-commissioned texts by Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery, and Rudi Fuchs, writer, curator and previously the longstanding Director of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, as well as a conversation between the artist and the curator of the exhibition, Andrea Schlieker, which took place over the planning of the show.

Notes to Editors

David Batchelor is based in London. He was born in Dundee in 1955. He studied Fine Art at Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham (1975–78), and Cultural Theory at Birmingham University (1978–80).

Andrea Schlieker is a freelance curator, lecturer and writer. She curated the Folkestone Triennial 2011 having conceived and curated the inaugural Folkestone Triennial *Tales of Time and Space* in 2008. She recently curated Mark Wallinger's *Sinema Amnesia* for the *My City* public art project in Turkey (2010–11) and was co-curator of the *British Art Show 6*. Schlieker has a long track record in curating national and international exhibitions, as well as major public art projects. A member of the Public Realm Commissioning Advisory Panel for the Olympic Park, Schlieker was also a juror for the 2009 Turner Prize. She lectures regularly in Britain and abroad.

The Fruitmarket Gallery aims to make contemporary art accessible, without compromising art or underestimating audiences.



David Batchelor *October Drawing (No. 1, cover)*, 2003
Courtesy the artist, Galeria Leme, São Paulo and Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh. © David Batchelor, DACS, London, 2013. Photograph: Thierry Bal

The Gallery presents world-class, thought-provoking and challenging art made by both Scottish and international artists in an environment that is welcoming, engaging, informative and always free. The Gallery aims to give audiences the confidence to enjoy contemporary art and to understand the importance of art, artists, culture and creativity and their impact on individual and collective lives.

The Gallery's creative programme includes exhibitions, commissions, interpretation, education and publishing in both print and electronic forms. Gallery facilities include a bookshop and a café. The Gallery is physically accessible and family-friendly.

Talks

Artist's Talk

Wednesday 8 May, 6.30pm. Free.

David Batchelor in conversation with exhibition curator Andrea Schlieker.

Workshop

Sculptural Samples

Tuesday 21 May, 11am–5pm. Free. 12 places for 14–17 year olds.

Led by artist Tomasina Hurrell, this workshop takes inspiration from the exhibition to experiment with approaches to drawing and sculpture through colour, structure and movement.

Panel Discussion

'Imagining things that cannot exist': David Batchelor's Drawings

Wednesday 22 May, 6–7.30pm. £5 full/£3 conc. Refreshments available from 5.30pm.

Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery Fiona Bradley, Professor Briony Fer (University College London) and Professor Anne Wagner (University of California, Berkeley) consider ideas explored in this exhibition of drawings by an artist primarily known for his sculpture.

Tours

Audio Tour

Wednesday 5 June, 2–3pm. Free. 10 places.

A tour of the exhibition with assistive listening devices, for visitors who are hard of hearing.

Descriptive Tour

Wednesday 5 June, 6.30–8pm. Free. 10 places.

Artist Juliana Capes leads a tour designed specifically for visually impaired visitors with detailed descriptions of David Batchelor's work and practice.

Saturday Tour 2pm. Free.

Drop in any Saturday for an informal tour.

Booking is recommended for all events.

To book your place call **0131 226 8181** or email **bookshop@fruitmarket.co.uk**

Resources

The Fruitmarket Gallery produces resources for each exhibition which are available for all visitors to download from our website.

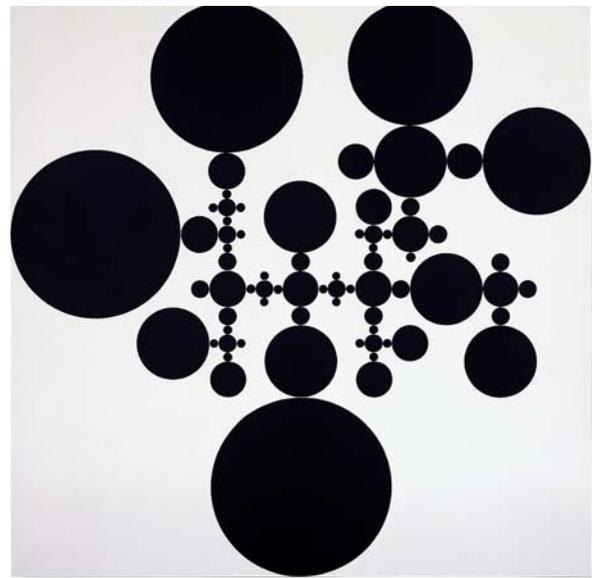
Please visit **www.fruitmarket.co.uk** to download: Exhibition Guide, Resources for School Workshops, Family and Group Activities and Family Fun Guide.

Forward Programme

Gabriel Orozco

1 August – 19 October 2013

A new exhibition of work by Gabriel Orozco, one of the foremost international artists of our age, whose consistently innovative practice captures the imagination while powerfully engaging with key material and conceptual issues of what it is to make art now. This exhibition cuts a conceptual slice through Orozco's practice, tracing the occurrence and recurrence of a circular geometric motif – part of a way of thinking for Orozco, a way to organise ideas of structure, organisation and perspective. A highlight is a series of large geometric works on acetate, made in the mid-1990s, yet never before exhibited.



Gabriel Orozco, *The Eye of Go*, 2005
Synthetic polymer paint on canvas
Collection of the artist

Louise Bourgeois Insomnia

26 November 2013 – 16 February 2014

Central to this exhibition are Bourgeois's *Insomnia Drawings*, a remarkable suite of 220 drawings and writings made between 1994 and June 1995 specifically to combat the insomnia which Bourgeois once described as regulating her life. Created in the suspended state between sleeping and waking, *The Insomnia Drawings* contain all the major themes of Bourgeois's work and reveal the close link between drawing and writing that is such a key part of her practice.

The Insomnia Drawings, generously lent to The Fruitmarket Gallery by the Daros Collection in Switzerland, are complemented and extended by works on paper selected by Frances Morris from the Louise Bourgeois Trust. Focusing on drawing and writing, the exhibition cuts to the heart of the artist's work, providing both a key to and a celebration of her unique creative energy.

Tania Kovats Oceans

13 March – 15 June 2014

Tania Kovats is a British artist whose practice encompasses sculpture, installation and large scale time-based projects exploring our experience and understanding of landscape.

The Fruitmarket Gallery is currently preparing a two-part collaboration with Tania Kovats. First, an exhibition which presents an ambitious new work in the context of the artist's on-going practice. The new work, *All the Seas*, is a sculptural presentation of water from all the world's seas, collected by the artist with the help of a global network of people drawn in by the poetry of the idea of bringing all the waters of the world to one place. The second part of the Gallery's collaboration with Tania Kovats is a publication which accompanies the exhibition but is not a catalogue for it. Since publishing *The Drawing Book* in 2006, Kovats has continued to be attracted to the wealth of drawings of others, by a wide selection of practitioners. She is currently bringing these together in a new publication looking particularly at drawings of exploration and discovery, drawings which seek, like *All the Seas*, to find a way to make sense of the world.