

PACE LONDON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brian Clarke

Spitfires and Primroses

13 February – 21 March 2015

6–10 Lexington Street, London, W1F 0LB



Brian Clarke in his studio. © Ti Foster

London—Pace London is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by the leading British artist Brian Clarke.

Presenting the artist's stained-glass pieces and paintings, the exhibition will be on view at 6–10 Lexington Street from 13 February to 21 March 2015.

Clarke's solo exhibition will run in conjunction with *A Strong Sweet Smell of Incense*, a group exhibition curated by Clarke at 6 Burlington Gardens celebrating the seminal *Swinging London* art dealer who was both a friend and early supporter of Clarke. Pace will publish two catalogues to accompany the respective exhibitions.

For more than four decades, Clarke has pioneered new directions in stained glass, extending his practice to painting sculpture and mosaics. Architecturally, Clarke has collaborated with figures such as Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid, I.M Pei and Renzo Piano. Clarke developed his interest in glass out of exposure to British Gothic cathedrals during his childhood in northern England. Although he maintains a classical knowledge of the medium, he has developed it beyond its largely religious siting. Clarke has filtered his understanding of stained glass's history and technique through a contemporary canon, employing the delicate medium to make artworks in the non-ecclesiastical traditions of Pop Art and abstraction.

“After nearly four decades of intense production in painting, sculpture, and stained glass, Clarke is not an easy artist to absorb, let alone to classify. If there were an artist capable of synthesizing space, time, and light, ranging from his intimate “drawings in the air” on black sugar paper to his rigorous in-depth architectonic achievements, he could be none other than Brian Clarke.” Robert C. Morgan, *Between Extremities* catalogue, Pace Gallery NY, 2013.

In recognition of the significance of architecture and in situ work in his practice, Clarke will install a new stained-glass window specifically designed for the Lexington Street gallery.

The selection of paintings also demonstrates the interaction between media in the artist's oeuvre. Paintings frequently function as the genesis of Clarke's stained glass works, yet the distinction between the opacity of painting versus the site-specific translucency of the glass, reveals his sensitivity to colour and material.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Brian Clarke (b. 1953, Oldham, Lancashire, England) is best known for radically updating and innovating the medium of stained glass, while also maintaining active practices in painting, sculpture, mosaics and tapestry. Since the early 1970s, he has collaborated with some of the world's most prominent architects and artists to create stained-glass proposals and installations for hundreds of projects, including the Pyramid of Peace and Accord, Kazakhstan (Norman Foster); the Al Faisaliyah Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Foster + Partners); the Pfizer World Headquarters, New York; the Papal Chapel of the Apostolic Nunciature, London, U.K.; the Darmstadt Synagogue, Germany; Hessisches Landesmuseum, Darmstadt, Germany; Linköping Cathedral, Linköping, Sweden; NorteShopping, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and the Research Centre, Saudi Arabia (Zaha Hadid). Clarke also designed stage sets for two of Paul McCartney's world tours and for the Dutch National Ballet.

Clarke's stained-glass works and paintings have been the subject of exhibitions at international museums including the Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, Netherlands; Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan; Munich Stadtmuseum, Germany; the Centre International de Vitrail, Chartres, France; and the Vitro Musée, Romont, Switzerland. His work is represented in international public and private collections worldwide, including the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York, where his 1,000-square-foot installation *The Glass Wall* (1998) is on view. Clarke lives and works in London.

Clarke was represented by the Robert Fraser gallery until 1985. He is now represented by Pace and this is his second exhibition with the gallery.

PACE

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries. Founded by Arne Glimcher in Boston in 1960 and led by Marc Glimcher, Pace has been a constant, vital force in the art world and has introduced many renowned artists' work to the public for the first time. Pace has mounted more than 800 exhibitions, including scholarly exhibitions that have subsequently travelled to museums, and published nearly 450 exhibition catalogues. Today Pace has nine locations worldwide: four in New York; two in London; one in Beijing, one in Hong Kong and a temporary space in Menlo Park, California. Pace London inaugurated its flagship gallery at 6 Burlington Gardens with the exhibition *Rothko/Sugimoto: Dark Paintings and Seascapes* in 2012.

Pace London at 6 Burlington Gardens is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.pacegallery.com/

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