

PRESS RELEASE

Signs for Sounds

Exhibition of contemporary letterforming and calligraphy

Saturday 17 September - Sunday 30 October 2011

Find out how letters are 'signs for sounds' from artists who craft and shape the words we use everyday.



This Autumn the Devon Guild launches a fascinating new exhibition exploring the diversity and impact of letterforming, from traditional calligraphy to how letters appear today in hi-tech font design, virtual typography and street art.

A selection of international artists and designers will present letters, writing and words in new contexts and different media. Gary Breeze's stone-carvings look at the similarity between Roman abbreviations and today's shortened 'txt-spk'. Incisive Letterwork focus on the *sound* of words being cut-out and Ina Saltz's work is devoted to word-based tattoos inked upon the skin.

Work also covers designer fonts by Brody Neuenschwander and graffiti by urban artist Bunny Bread. Visitors can watch Falmouth-based Timothy Donaldson creating 'unreadable' words with giant brushes. A new typeface produced by Jeremy Tankard asks whether a font can talk in different accents and viewers can interact with virtual typography as they move letters and words on touchscreen monitors. A specially designed APP for interaction with this exhibition is available to download. (Available free from iTunes music store, Sept. 4.)

The exhibition will travel beyond Devon as part of a wider tour to galleries as far afield as Kent, Wolverhampton and Sunderland. Organised by Nottingham's Harley Gallery with curator Jeremy Theophilus, the Guild is proud to begin the tour with a launch and special performance on 16th September by Julien Breton known for 'dancing' his letters using physical movement and light. The Guild's curator Emma Mahanay says: 'We hope Signs for Sounds will bring the art, and craft of lettering to life. It's a thought-provoking show and people of all ages will have a great time interacting with stenciling, drawing and D.I.Y lettering in the gallery.'

<Ends>

Exhibitors: Phil Baines & Catherine Dixon, Bunny Bread, Gary Breeze, Julien Breton, Ewan Clayton, Tim Donaldson, Incisive Letterwork, Jason Lewis/OBX, Brody Neuenschwander, Tom Perkins, Jeremy Tankard and Ina Saltz.

Related events at the Guild:

Exhibition launch and calligraphic light performance by artist Julien Breton – Friday 16 September. 6.30pm. Free.

Live Text Installation by artist Timothy Donaldson - Friday 23 September. 3pm. Free, but booking required.

The Big Draw, 'Take a Letter' - Thursday 27 & Friday 28 October. 11am - 4pm. Free. Drop in and draw event for all ages with activities relating to the exhibition all about the art of making letters and words.

Tour schedule: Devon Guild of Craftsmen 17 Sept - 30 Oct 2011; Bilston Craft Centre 10 Dec 2011 - 4 February 2012, The Harley Gallery 16 February - 11 April 2012; The Beaney, Canterbury Feb - March 2013; Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens 20 July - 29 Sept 2013

Press: High resolution images available on disk or by email. Please contact Simon Williams (Marketing Officer) simon.williams@crafts.org.uk or Anna Trussler anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk 01626 832223

The Devon Guild of Craftsmen is an educational charity and membership organisation representing craftspeople from the South West and showcasing the work of national and international makers. Visit www.crafts.org.uk.

The Harley Gallery is dedicated to the display of contemporary visual art and craft. It houses the Cavendish Bentinck family art collection (Portland Collection) which includes fine and decorative historical art. Signs for Sounds is the latest Harley Gallery touring exhibition. Visit www.harleygallery.co.uk/

THE DEVON GUILD OF CRAFTSMEN

RIVERSIDE MILL · BOVEY TRACEY · DEVON TQ13 9AF · 01626 832223 · WWW.CRAFTS.ORG.UK · devonguild@crafts.org.uk

Registered charity no. 296568 · Company no. 2026446

Images: (top) Timothy Donaldson, large scale text
(This page, left to right) Julien Breton, Cortex (Compagnie 6)
Incisive Letterwork, Architexts,
Brody Neuenschwander, Mary Magdalene



THE HARLEY
GALLERY



Supported by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND