ANDRÉ STITT

Frieze Week
Talk & Tea

Saturday 6th October
2-4pm | Talk starts 3pm

ALICE BLACK
47, Berwick Street (1st Fl)
London W1F 8SQ
aliceblackart.com
From Political Performer...
Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, André Stitt is considered one of Europe’s foremost performance and interdisciplinary artists. He has worked as an experimental artist since 1976 creating hundreds of unique works at major galleries, festivals and biennales around the world.

Currently, a Professor of Fine Art at Cardiff School of Art and Design and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Art, Stitt’s reputation was initially founded upon his radical performance based work.

His early works in Belfast typified (and sometimes closely parodied) the state of ‘normality’ arising from living within the context of “The Troubles”. His performance work at this time involved bomb scares, dirty protests, newspaper headlines, self-harm, bodily trauma and public provocations, intended to reflect the prevailing forms of fear and social neurosis that dominated.
“It was about defining a system, recovering a sense of place, struggling for a sense of life within the imprint of oppression”. RODDY HUNTER
Originally trained as a painter, the action-based nature of Stitt's practice would soon drastically evolve. He saw performance as an escape from the frustration imposed by the representational and formal economies of painting. The catalyst for this came with the radical gesture he performed as a student. In 1978, Stitt burnt all his paintings outside Belfast Art School.

Art Is Not a Mirror It's a Fucking Hammer. Burning paintings, Belfast 1978
“During the burning of the paintings a bucket of blood mixed with rotten meat was poured over me as a reaction against the formality of an art school system and, indeed, the formality of creating art: paint to blood, synthetic to organic”.

ANDRE STITT
During this period Stitt's live performance and installation works were presented at major museums and galleries throughout the world including: MoMA PS1, New York City (2000), Venice Biennale (2005), Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, United Kingdom (2005), Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (2008).

In 2008 and again in 2015, Stitt was awarded a major Creative Wales Award to develop his work and has since radically changed the focus of his art practice to painting.
Post Gutai Cluster F**k, Korea, 2009
To Painter & Professor...
ALICE BLACK is pleased to present Andre Stitt: space, hope + altered estates, a dual-location exhibition, hosted concurrently at ALICE BLACK, London and TEN, Cardiff.
"In these new paintings, I continue to explore themes of communities and their dissolution - I use allusions to architecture and places of habitation, such as Britain's new towns, housing estates and military installations, together with the occupation and civilianisation of contested space through settlement to suggest the uncertainty of human historical time." ANDRE STITT
We encounter overlapping architectural blueprints, strange non-objects and floating geometric shapes; certain motifs hark to the mid-century modern, yet simultaneously hint at the digital and the coded. This is Stitt’s imagined and constructed retro-future - hard, angular and flat. Stitt’s use of synthetic acrylic paint allows for thin application, thus creating a seemingly endless and continually shifting depth through multiple layers on a flat plane. Paint is controlled and constrained, guided in its flow. The artist states influences from mid-century Californian interiors to 80’s urban artists of the sunshine coast - reflected in the use of spray paint and combinations of colour.
‘space hope + altered estates’ continues Stitt’s personal exploration into the physical experience of day-to-day living amongst the ‘new future’ of post world war society and brutalist architecture. Bold and abstract, Stitt’s paintings offer the function of art and architecture as a futuristic vision of social development.
“Neoliberalism, with its belief in the permanence and finality of free markets, tried to rewrite the whole of human history as ‘things that went wrong before us’. But once you begin to think about the history of capitalism, you are forced to ask which events, amid the chaos, are part of a recurrent pattern and which are part of an irreversible change.”


A painting/installation that considers art as a synthetic communicator and transmitter of experience reflecting the uncertainty of human-historical time and place.

“The work draws upon the materiality of the built environment and its abstract displacement through art as a memory of forms reimagined as a parallel universe. In proposing a simulacrum I wish to question our received notion of authenticity in a world constructed through capitalist neo-liberalism, and imperial economies of power that contribute to the exploitation of national/cultural/religious and postcolonial identities. The ambition is for work that may create a sense of recognition counterbalanced by a sense of timelessness, loss, longing, disconnection and melancholy. In so doing I wish to make artworks that seem to arrive as if from another time and place; a potential dissident space where all era’s co-exist.” ANDRE STITT
ALICE BLACK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
2018: WELLS CONTEMPORARY, Wells, Somerset, England; STOP MAKING SENSE, CSAD Exhibitions, Cardiff; NATIONAL EISTEDDFOF OF WALES
2017: STATIK/KONETIK, Alice Black Gallery, London; NATIONAL EISTEDDFOF OF WALES, Bodgedern, Anglesey, Wales
2016: CARDIFF CONTEMPORARY, Cardiff; NATIONAL EISTEDDFOF OF WALES, Aberavenny, Wales; BEEP Painting Biennale, Swansea; NSK FOLK BIENNALE, The Burren, Ireland; Oriel Davies Open, Newport, Wales
2015: Griffin Open, Griffin Gallery, London; COLLECTED HISTORIES, GT Gallery, Belfast; ART OF THE TROUBLES, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, England
2014: MOBILE ENCOUNTERS, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; NEW WELSH ART, gallery ten, Cardiff; BEEP PAINTING BIENNALE, Swansea, Wales; ART OF THE EASTSIDE, Eastside Arts, Belfast; ART OF THE TROUBLES, Ulster Museum, Belfast; Oriel Davies Open, Newport, Wales
2012: BEEP PAINTING BIENNALE, Swansea, Wales; JOHN MOORES 2012, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; NATIONAL EISTEDDFOF OF WALES, Glamorgan, Wales; SHELTER, Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno, Wales
2011: NATIONAL EISTEDDFOF OF WALES, Wrexham, Wales; DEATH AND DADA, Galerie Lehtinen, Berlin
2008: SOUTH OF NO NORTH, Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, Ireland
2007: AFTERMATH, Artspace, Sydney, Australia
2006: ACUTE ZONAL ULTRA, Drawing Centre, New York
2005: NAVIGATE, Baltic, Gateshead, England; REACTION, Venice Bienalle
2000: 0044, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast; 0044, Crawford Municipal Gallery, Cork, Ireland
1999: 0044, PS1, New York; 0044, Albright Knox Museum, Buffalo, NY
1998: STREETWORKS, Streetlevel Gallery, Glasgow
1997: DOING IN IT'S OWN RIGHT, Serpentine Gallery, London
1995: EXPEDITION IN THE PERFORMANCE WORLD, Artpool, Budapest
1994: AART, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; PAQUET CADEAUX, Galerie Satellite, Paris
1993: OF LOVE, Galerie Satellite, Paris
1990: MINI RETRO, De Media, Eeklo, Belgium
1989: HARDCORE, Mexic-Arte Museum, Austin, TX; ARTZ ATTACK, Project Arts Centre, Dublin
1988: AIR MAIL, Air Gallery, London
1987: CONFRONTATIONS, Projects UK touring exhibition 1982
1982: SADE, Crawford Municipal Gallery, Cork, Ireland
1981: EXHIBITION OF DRAWING SIGNS, Rysunku Gallery, Poznan, Poland
1980: EVA, Limerick, Ireland
1979: EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ARTS, Crawford Municipal Gallery, Cork, Ireland; IRISH EXHIBITION OF LIVING ART, Bank of Ireland, Dublin

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS
2017: CIVICS, Edge Hill University & Arts Centre, Ormskirk, England; ASTRO-CIVICS, TEN+Studio 18, Pontycymmer, South Wales
2016: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD, gallery ten, Cardiff
2014: DARK MATTER, gallery ten, Cardiff
2013: IN THE WEST, Leeds College of Art Gallery; IN THE WEST, Oriel Myrddyn, Carmarthen, Wales
2012: PROG.VOL.2, Warning Contemporary Art, Belfast; PROG.VOL.1, Saint David's Hall, Cardiff
2010: EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS IS NOWHERE, Howard Gardens Gallery, Cardiff; SUBSTANCE, GT Gallery, Belfast
2009: SHIFTWORK, The Lab, New York; EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS IS NOWHERE, MCAC, Craigavon, N. Ireland
2008: SUBSTANCE, SpaceX, Exeter, England
2005: RECLAMATION, Chapter, Cardiff
2004: CARGO CULT, CGP Gallery, London
2003: WHITE TRASH, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver; THE BEDFORD PROJECT, BCA Gallery, Bedford, England
2002: SOUTH OF NO NORTH, Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, Ireland
2001: HOMEWORK, Le Lieu Centre en Art Actuel, Quebec
2000: HOMEWORK, Howard Gardens Gallery, Cardiff
1999: LEARNING TO FLY, Michael Wilson Gallery, London
1993: AKSHUNARTIFAX, Arts Council Gallery, Belfast
1990: MINI RETRO, De Media, Eeklo, Belgium
1985: SNUFF, Lantaren-Venster Gallery, Rotterdam, Holland

ARTIST MONOGRAPHS
For sales and press inquiries please contact:

Alice Black
alice@aliceblackart.com
+ 44 (0) 77 4348 8626
47 Berwick Street (1st Fl), London, W1F 8SQ

Opening Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 11am-4pm & by appointment