

PI ARTWORKS LONDON

EXTROSPECTION curated by **David Thorp**

1 October – 14 November 2020

Pi Artworks London

Private View: Thursday 1 October,
3pm – 8pm

Exhibition Walk-through
with David Thorp & Catalogue Launch:
14 October 2020, 6:30pm- 7:30 pm.



Barry Flanagan, *sand pour*, 1968,
Sculpture, sand, dimensions variable
Courtesy of The Estate of Barry Flanagan

“Conceptual artists leap to conclusions that logic cannot reach”

-Sol LeWitt

Pi Artworks London is pleased to announce *EXTROSPECTION* curated by *David Thorp*. *EXTROSPECTION* is 2020-21 season opening show of the gallery and coincides with Frieze London week.

EXTROSPECTION brings together works from **Fiona Banner aka The Vanity Press** , **Barry Flanagan**, **Toby Tobias Kidd**, **John Latham**, **Cally Spooner**, **Anne Tallentire**.

Conceptual art was an international movement and, after New York, London was an important centre. The artists selected for *EXTROSPECTION* all have a strong link to London. They are drawn from different generations, from those instrumental in establishing conceptual art as a discipline to those active today.

Over the years Conceptual art has come to be used as a popular catch all for everything that isn't conventional painting and sculpture. But did Conceptual art actually run its course by the 1970s? Or has it endured as a distinct discipline that manifests core principals such as an analysis of language; the poetic potential inherent in everyday objects; an anti-authoritarian attitude; a questioning of the nature of art. Using the structures, codes and institutions of the world as its system? A distinct discipline formed by the extrospective consideration of things external to the artist; putting ideas about art and its place in the world over the artists' mental and emotional processes?

EXTROSPECTION runs between 1 October - 14 November 2020. For more information and all enquiries please contact Pi Artworks London at london@piartworks.com

David Thorp is an independent curator. He has been the Director of Chisenhale Gallery, London; The Showroom, London; The South London Gallery; Curator of Contemporary Projects at the Henry Moore Foundation as well as working internationally on a variety of contemporary art projects for a portfolio of arts organisations.

Fiona Banner aka The Vanity Press, born in 1966, Merseyside, England, lives in London, explores gender, collections, and publishing through a practice spanning forms as varied as drawing, sculpture, performance, and moving image. In 1997 she started her own publishing imprint The Vanity Press, which has been the backbone of her work ever since. Banner toys with the snobbery inherent in the title by publishing posters, books, objects and performances that deploy a playful attitude and utilise pseudo grandeur.

Barry Flanagan, born in 1941, Prestatyn, Wales, died in 2009, Ibiza, Spain, is widely acknowledged as one of the leading innovators in sculptural practice to have emerged from St Martins School of Art in the mid 1960s, before this he had already experimented extensively with concrete poetry. In one of his notes Flanagan described his sculptural practice as akin to 'the poet of the building site.'. Flanagan's experimentation with methods and materials remained central to his practice and he continued to extend and to question the range of sculptural properties.

Toby Tobias Kidd, born in 1981 Newtown, Wales, lives in London, is interested in the way we navigate language at an ideological level; technical jargon and ordinary language, emotion, and structural hierarchies. Text and speech become the material that mutates into a multi-headed monster, a mash-up of pop-songs hijacked for partisan means, collective structural investigations, stories of economic crises, and imagined future anarchist parks.

John Latham, born in 1921, Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia (now Maramba, Zambia), died in 2006 London, was a pioneer of British conceptual art, who, through painting, sculpture, performances, assemblages, films, installation and extensive writings, fuelled controversy and continues to inspire. A visionary in mapping systems of knowledge, whether scientific or religious, he developed his own philosophy of time, known as 'Event Structure.' In this doctrine he proposed that the most basic component of reality is not the particle, as implied by physics, but the 'least event,' or the shortest departure from the state of nothing.

Cally Spooner, born in 1983, London, England, lives in London and Athens, her work consists of media installations, essays, novels and live performances such as radio broadcasts, plays and a musical, which grapple with the organisation and dispossession of that which lives. She often uses rehearsals, or the episodic form, as a means, and an end, in itself.

Anne Tallentire, born in 1950, Ireland, lives in London, is working with moving image, sculpture, installation, performance and photography. Through visual and textual interrogation of everyday materials and structures, she seeks to reveal systems that control the built environment, affect displacement and shape the economics of labour.