

PORTLAND GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

PORTLAND GALLERY ANOUNCE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY DAVID SPILLER

David Spiller: Works for the 2010's
8th November – 1st December 2023



Love is all there is, 2015
Acrylic & pencil on canvas 68 x 66 cm

Portland Gallery is delighted to announce an important exhibition of works by David Spiller taking place in November this year. The exhibition is the final part of a trilogy of exhibitions examining the final three decades of Spiller's work. The exhibition will be supported by a major new catalogue with text by Richard Cork. The exhibition (and catalogue) will feature over 45 canvases.

Spiller's work in his final years ranks amongst his most accessible and popular. Using the motifs with which he had become well known, Spiller's explorations on the themes of love and relationships became ever more poignant. On viewing Spiller's work, the viewer is immediately attracted to the vibrancy of colour, joyful

application of paint and the familiar imagery that is displayed outside of its usual context. One then becomes aware of the complexity of design and composition – not least in the

stitching of the canvas elements and the fact that each mark is hand-made rather than printed or stencilled. Finally, one becomes aware of the pencil drawn song lyrics and other scribbles weaving an intricate pattern across each canvas. Every element and mark had a personal resonance to the artist, and those who knew him, but also to every new viewer who will bring their own personal interpretation to each work.

Jamie Anderson, director of Portland Gallery: 'David's work physically draws you in and invites the viewer to examine each painting at close quarters. The act of viewing becomes immersive, and as you scan the painting surface, looking for lyrics and incidentally drawings, you are immediately encouraged to recall your own relationships and memories. You are, of course, acutely aware that those personal thoughts were not in the artist's mind when he produced the painting, but that themes evoked are universal. What at first is joyous and playful, becomes quite quickly something far more timeless and meaningful.'

PORTLAND GALLERY · 3 BENNET STREET · LONDON SW1A 1RP
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David Spiller: Works from the 2010s runs at Portland Gallery from 8th November until 1st December.
The gallery is open Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm, or by appointment.

For more information please contact:

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Portland Gallery
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Love is the light, 2013
Acrylic & pencil on canvas 122 x 148 cm

About Portland Gallery

Portland Gallery was established in 1984 and are leading dealers in modern and contemporary British Art. Located in Bennet Street, the gallery is spread over two floors and plays host to 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estates. Portland Gallery participates at Leading London at fairs including Treasure House Fair and the British Art Fair. The gallery is owned by an Employee Ownership Trust.

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Artist Biography: David Spiller (1942 – 2018)

Born in Dartford, Kent, Spiller studied at Beckenham School of Art before completing his formal studies at the Slade School of Art between 1962 and 1965 where he studied under Frank Auerbach. It was during these early formative years that Spiller became immersed in the emergent pop culture, particularly in terms of music and film, which influenced and informed his art throughout his career. Spiller took up teaching roles, most notably as a senior lecturer at Ravensbourne College of Art before deciding to dedicate all his time to art in the mid-1980s. He moved to New York, and subsequently to Berlin and began exhibiting internationally. Although a regular exhibitor in America, Germany, Holland and across Europe during this time, he exhibited in the UK infrequently until he was represented by Beaux Arts in Cork Street, London in 1998. In 2000, Spiller began exhibiting with Guy Pieters in Belgium. Spiller began exhibiting with Portland Gallery in 2013.

Spiller's art is filled with life and energy, and compresses a world of diverse ideas and impressions. Picasso and Dubuffet are particularly notable influences on Spiller's art, but as an artist he was acutely aware of art history and his place within it. Spiller was also entranced by the imagery of film and advertising, recognizing the powerful personal emotional connection viewers make with such imagery, notably (but far from exclusively) cartoon characters from Disney films. Spiller's art is a blend of styles, mixing the hard-hitting immediacy of Pop art - its bright colours, punchy texts and clean lines - with a deceptively simple expressionism. To these striking images, he has added another layer of intuitive freehand texts that include lines from his favourite songs (by the Beatles, Bob Dylan and other recognisable pop standards that have seeped into his consciousness). Simultaneously fun and sincere, his work captures the imagination of adults and children alike.



Portland Gallery exclusively represents the Estate of David Spiller.

Angels will sing, 2012
Acrylic & pencil on canvas 148 x 148 cm

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