
Alan Cristea Gallery

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Exhibition Information May 2019

Press Contact:
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Mick Moon

27 June - 31 July 2019

Private View and Book Launch Wednesday 26 June 2019



Mick Moon; *Palolem*, 2018-19 and *Sassoon Docks I*, 2018-19 © Mick Moon. Courtesy artist and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.

An exhibition of new paintings by Mick Moon opens at Alan Cristea Gallery from 27 June to 31 July 2019, to coincide with the publication of the first monograph on the artist published by the Royal Academy of Arts. These new works are made by painting and collaging on to impressions of wood taken from the floorboards of Moon's studio in south London. The resulting images, which bear traces of stains, scratches and marks from the worn surface of the floor are completed by hand. The finished paintings embody an abiding interest in India as well as the English seaside.

Moon was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1937 and grew up in Blackpool, England. After completing his national service he studied at Chelsea School of Art, London from 1958 to 1962 followed by a further year at The Royal College of Art, London. In 1963 Moon was invited back to teach at Chelsea. It was at this time that he made the first paintings (colour modulated strips) to come to public attention but just as important for him was the forming of two lifelong friendships with Patrick Caulfield and John Hoyland, both colleagues on the teaching staff.

In the early 1970's his direction changed radically and he became preoccupied with the late studio paintings of Georges Braque – the subject of his final thesis at Chelsea. Inspired by Braque's work he turned his attention to his immediate surroundings, the walls, floor and furniture of his studio. He made impressions of these surfaces which were then cut and collaged into large wall hangings.

These paintings carried him on a wave of success from an exhibition at the Tate, London in 1976 through to the Arts Council Hayward Annual and first prize at The John Moores Liverpool exhibition in 1980.

Over time and through many phases of work Moon has shifted his investigations from the confines of the artist's studio to landscapes and urban places that had been neglected, including the Blackpool seaside of his childhood and the Sussex coast where he spent his schooldays. In London he was also a frequent visitor to Brick Lane, an area of displaced communities and cultures that had arrived from India through immigration. These subjects would appear in Moon's paintings and prints most prominently in the use of spice pots, glassware, tea chests and decaying beach furniture.

Moon first travelled to India in 1980 returning to the country many times throughout his life. He continues to draw on Indian influences and these new paintings include depictions of boats docked at shore and moored along the coast of Mumbai and Goa. The bright intense colour of his earlier work has been replaced by serene contemplative seascapes in various shades of grey.

The exhibition private view and book launch will take place on Wednesday 26 June 2019. The publication *Mick Moon* (160 pages, 120 illustrations) is written by Mel Gooding, who provides an authoritative insight into the artist's practice and a definitive overview of his career.

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About the artist

Mick Moon was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1937. He was brought up in Blackpool before studying at Chelsea School of Art, London, from 1958 to 1962, where his final written thesis was on the late studio paintings of George Braque. He completed his studies at the Royal College of Art from 1962 to 1963 and was Senior Lecture at the Slade School of Fine Art from 1973 until 1990.

Moon had his first solo exhibition in 1969 at Waddington Galleries, London. Further solo exhibitions include Alan Cristea Gallery, London (1996); Bowles Sorokko Gallery, San Francisco (1996); Dolan Maxwell Gallery, Philadelphia (1986); Chapter Gallery, Cardiff (1985); Macquaire Galleries, Sydney (1982); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (1980), and Tate, London (1976). Moon won first prize at the 1980 John Moores Liverpool Exhibition. In the same year he won the Major Arts Council Award, and in 1982 Moon travelled to Melbourne for an artist residency at the Prahran School of Art and Design.

In 1984 he won the Gulbenkian Print Award and was elected a Royal Academician in 1994. His works are held in numerous public collections including Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Tate, London; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh; Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon; Australian National Gallery, Canberra and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney.

Mick Moon lives and works in London.

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About Alan Cristea Gallery

The Alan Cristea Gallery, established in 1995, is one of the world's largest publishers of original contemporary prints and editions, and the primary representative for a number of renowned contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists.

The gallery's ethos is artist-led and its principle objective is to assist artists in bringing new bodies of work to fruition, including editions, works on paper, paintings, sculpture and installations, which are presented in a continuous programme of public exhibitions, events and art fairs.

Visitor information:

Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm
Sat 11am - 2pm

Travel:
Piccadilly or Green Park tube station

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#MickMoon