

SET IN STONE

**REAL & IMAGINARY ARCHITECTURE
CREATED BY FIVE CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS**



**A NEW EXHIBITION OF WORK BY EMILY ALLCHURCH, STEPHEN CARTER,
MICHAEL DURNING, STEFAN HOENERLOH & BEN JOHNSON**

Five artists present their own interpretations of architecture in a new exhibition at **PM Gallery**, the extension to architect Sir John Soane's home, **Pitzhanger Manor** in Ealing, west London. Each artist takes their inspiration from a variety of buildings to create paintings and photography of, variously, London's Westway, Scottish monuments, longstanding, ghostly, city buildings and imaginary Roman prisons.

Set in Stone runs from 28 March-26 April 2008.



Urban Chiaroscuro No.2 London by Emily Allchurch & Greek Thomson by Michael Durning

Emily Allchurch

British artist Emily Allchurch presents a series of meticulously researched and constructed lightbox images of imaginary prison buildings, pieced together from many pictures of real buildings from across Europe. The series is inspired by Giovanni Battista Piranesi's 'Carceri d'Invenzione' (Imaginary Prisons) c.1745-1761. Emily Allchurch creates each large backlit transparency by making a selection from hundreds of her own photographs and digitally splicing together the selected pictures to make a seamless construction of Piranesi's original work. Each resulting building is a mass of architectural styles, with warning signs, CCTV cameras, razor wire and security mirrors among the many 21st-century features giving a sense of foreboding and claustrophobia.

Stephen Carter

Stephen Carter has examined the detail of London's Westway (already immortalised by The Clash), with a series of paintings of the huge concrete flyover, which carries traffic from London and out to the M4 to Wales. Stephen Carter

considers his work to be optimistic, as the Westway represents both an escape for city dwellers to the beauty of the countryside and for country dwellers to get to the exciting heart of the city. But the optimistic view is tempered by the fact that the photographer is stuck below the Westway in a forgotten, uncelebrated, not to mention dirty and smelly, part of the city.

Michael Durning

Michael Durning's beautiful paintings of neglected and broken monuments and buildings question attitudes to Scottish heritage and culture. Often buildings are shown in relation to Scotland's grand landscapes and unforgiving weather, reducing their prowess in the face of the natural environment.

Stefan Hoenerloh

Stefan Hoenerloh is a modern German painter who creates monumental buildings with accurate, detailed architectural features. The buildings appear to be photographic, or painted from photographs, but are all invented by Hoenerloh using oil and acrylic. Stefan Hoenerloh paints looming buildings, often so large that the viewer is only able to see part of them within the frame of the picture. There appears to be no sign of life in any of the buildings, which seem to be old and weather-beaten, but strong in the face of everything they have withstood over the years since they were built.

Ben Johnson

Internationally renowned artist Ben Johnson creates large city panoramas. His most recent and most complex painting, the Liverpool Cityscape, follows previous works on Hong Kong, Jerusalem and Zurich and was commissioned by the National Museums of Liverpool for this year's European Capital of Culture celebrations. The production of each cityscape involves a lengthy process of photography throughout each city and many detailed drawings. The final work is created in a Renaissance-like studio using highly specialised assistants. In 1990, Ben Johnson was made an honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects for his contribution to the public understanding of contemporary architecture, the only contemporary painter to be so honoured.

VISITOR INFORMATION

***Set in Stone* Exhibition Dates:** 28 March-26 April 2008

Admission is free to all visitors

Opening Times: Tuesday-Friday 1-5pm; Saturday 11am-5pm

For further information www.ealing.gov.uk/pmgalleryandhouse, 020 8567 1227 or email Zoë Archer at zarcher@ealing.gov.uk

PM Gallery & Pitzhanger Manor, Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London, W5 5EQ

Travel: Trains and tube (via Central or District Lines) to Ealing Broadway.

Buses 207, 65 & 83.

-ends-

Notes to Editor

PM Gallery is the extension to Pitzhanger Manor, the 'dream house' designed by Sir John Soane. The largest exhibition space in West London, PM Gallery sits in Walpole Park, central Ealing and houses contemporary art exhibitions throughout the year. The Manor was built by Sir John Soane as a place to entertain his friends and display his collection of art and antiquities.

Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery is owned and run by **Ealing Council**. The council has recently published a Conservation Plan, in order to plan a future programme of improvements and restorations to the building and its surroundings and to further develop the programme of exhibitions and events.

Issued by *The Press Office*. For further information or pictures, please contact Michael Barrett or Kirsten Canning on 020 8295 2424, 07813-558772 or email kc@thepressoffice.uk.com