

MATT'S GALLERY

92 Webster Road, Bermondsey, London SE16 4DF
T (020) 7237 0398 E info@mattsgallery.org

Press release

Richard Grayson ***By Our Own Hand***

Preview: Friday June 1 2018, 4 - 8 pm

Exhibition: June 2 - 3 2018, 12 - 5pm

Matt's Gallery, The Residence, 42-44 Ponton Road, SW8 5BA

By Our Own Hand is the first exhibition in Matt's Gallery's new space in Nine Elms. In 2019 Matt's Gallery will open at Bellway's The Residence – this exhibition offers a preview of the core and shell space that will become our new venue.

By Our Own Hand is an artwork made with the participation of individuals and organisations in Wandsworth. The starting point of the work is a cross-stitch tapestry made by Richard Grayson between Christmas 2012 and Easter 2015. Working with stitching, appliqué, or other techniques involving textiles and cloth, participants have developed, designed and made individual panels. Brought together these form the component letters of the phrase "Boredom Is Always Counter-Revolutionary", originating from a text by writer and filmmaker Guy Debord.

The panels, approximately A3 size, feature either one of the letters of the text, or a decorative element that functions as a spacer in the assembled work of 42 parts. For one weekend the works will be viewable, mounted on a specially constructed structure in the shell of the future Matt's Gallery in Wandsworth.

The work references the practice of Italian conceptual artist Alighiero e Boetti's series of iconic embroideries, produced in the latter part of his career and made by Afghan embroiderers.

The participants are a combination of individual makers and hobbyists, as well as members of community groups. Regular meetings throughout the project have been led by embroiderer and educator James Hunting with Richard Grayson, kindly hosted and supported by the R.O.S.E Community Clubroom, Wandsworth. The project has been managed by Katrina Black.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full colour publication designed by Phil Baines, which will be available at the launch. It features an introduction by the artist, full-page colour reproductions of each panel, documentation of the creative process, and a specially commissioned essay by writer Jes Fernie.

This exhibition coincides with the London Festival of Architecture.

For more information please contact info@mattsgallery.org or call 020 7237 0398.

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Richard Grayson said: "It has been very exciting bringing this large and complex project together in Wandsworth over the last year. The area has been the site of its meetings, its workshops, the afternoons of production, and making. And now where the completed work is being launched, in the space of the new Matt's Gallery. *By Our Own Hand* could not have happened without the support of Wandsworth Council, Bellway, Matt's Gallery, The R.O.S.E Community Clubroom and the extraordinary involvement of all the people who generously invested their time and their care in designing, developing and making the panels that make this work."

Robin Klassnik, founder and Director, Matt's Gallery, added: "We're excited about moving to Nine Elms and it's fantastic that *By Our Own Hand* enables us to start work in the area sooner than envisaged! We are keen to get started and hope that Wandsworth locals embrace this project as their own. It is truly encouraging to see Wandsworth Council and Bellway delivering challenging and radical contemporary art to Nine Elms."

Emma Denton, Sales director Designate of Bellway Homes said: "This site is steeped in history, and located on the former Christie's Auctioneers fine art warehouse. So, we wanted The Residence to recognise its history and it felt fitting to include an art gallery. The gallery adds to the local vision to create a strong arts and cultural scene across the wider Nine Elms regeneration site. And we are proud to have donated money for the tapestry to be made as it is important for the area. This exhibition is a taster and launches the tapestry."

"The space that will house Matt's Gallery is still under construction and will be an excellent addition to this development's offerings, that also includes retail, office space and leisure facilities, when it opens its doors fully in 2019. It is important that we offer a wide mix of amenities for our residents at The Residence and art is no exception when it comes to building community spirit and a creative scene, which home buyers are looking for today."

"Until now if you thought of arts on the south bank of the Thames, you would think of Tate Modern and its surroundings, but now Nine Elms is evolving into another major cultural quarter. Nine Elms is an area rich in creative talent and it is great that the regeneration is opening up new opportunities and outlets for culture, as well as creating venues that will provide a focus for events."

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Notes to editors:

Richard Grayson is an artist and curator based in London. His work explores the ways that individuals and groups generate ways of reading the world and the role that art and music plays in communicating world-views from the individual to social areas. Recent exhibitions include *Speech Acts*, UTS Gallery Sydney, 2015, *His Master's Voice*, HMKV Dortmund 2015, and *Nothing Can Stop Us Now*, Matt's Gallery/Dilston Grove, 2014. He was curator of the 2002 Sydney Biennale *The World May Be Fantastic* and 'A Secret Service', a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition, 2006.

Matt's Gallery is one of the UK's leading art galleries and has supported the making of new and innovative work since its foundation in 1979. In 2014 director Robin Klassnik was awarded an OBE, in recognition of his contribution to contemporary art in the country. Matt's Gallery is currently based in Bermondsey and will move to Nine Elms in 2019.

Bellway has grown from a small, family-owned firm to one of the most successful house builders in the UK in just over 70 years. Today Bellway directly employ more than 2,000 people and have earned an enviable reputation, built on the pillars of quality, service and trust.

The Residence by Bellway Homes is a luxurious development of five new buildings, up to 19 storeys high, located on the South Bank of the River Thames, in the much-acclaimed regeneration area of Nine Elms. Undergoing extensive regeneration, Nine Elms is becoming a significant new residential, cultural and business region situated in London's new diplomatic quarter anchored by the new US Embassy. The Residence offers a new class of apartment living, transforming what was once the former site of Christie's Fine Art Storage warehouse to bring new retail and lifestyle opportunities to the area. Paying homage to the art world, Bellway has included a 9,192 sq ft art gallery as well as 514 apartments, of which 190 are affordable and 8,308 sq. ft. of commercial space.

Nine Elms On The South Bank is the £15 billion opportunity area between Lambeth Bridge and Chelsea Bridge, and is one of the largest regeneration projects in Europe. The area will be transformed from one of the capital's last remaining industrial districts into a world-class destination right in the heart of London. Already home to Battersea power Station and New Covent Garden Market, the area will also be home to the new Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the new U.S. Embassy and two new town centres at Vauxhall and Battersea Power Station. Underutilised industrial land is making way for new public square, parks, schools, tube stations, homes and business, which will drive growth and create jobs and homes. It will become a strikingly modern addition to the cityscape and a new centre for culture on London's South Bank. For more information: www.nineelmslondon.com

By Our Own Hand is kindly sponsored by Zweigart our principle partner for canvas, John James our principle partner for needles, The DMC Group our principle partner for threads.

Matt's Gallery at Nine Elms is funded by Bellway, in agreement with Wandsworth Council as part of their Section 106 commitments.

Matt's Gallery is generously supported by Arts Council England.



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