

Waddington Galleries

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL CRAIG-MARTIN CONFERENCE

3 May - 3 June 2000

The title of the exhibition 'Conference' comes from the largest painting to be shown and refers to the way in which the exhibition brings together a group of paintings that seek to engage the viewer in a visual discussion of various themes: including time, violence, history, portraiture, negotiation.

The exhibition is a development of concerns introduced by the artist in his exhibitions last year in New York at the Museum of Modern Art and at the Peter Blum Gallery.

These are the most complex paintings both compositionally and thematically that he has produced to date. They are crowded with overlapping imagery sometimes saturated with intense colour and sometimes focusing on a single coloured object seen against a field of black and white images.

Born in Dublin in 1941, Michael Craig-Martin studied at Yale University School of Art and Architecture in the early 1960s, but has spent most of his working life in Great Britain. From 1974 to 1988, he taught at Goldsmiths College, London, where he returned in 1993 as Millard Professor of Fine Art.

In 1989 a major retrospective of his work was held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London. In 1995 he curated 'Drawing the Line', an exhibition of drawings from pre-history to the present day held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (and touring). In 1998 he represented Great Britain at the XXIV Bienal de Sao Paulo in Brazil. Most recently he has created major installations at the Kunstverein Hannover (1998) and at the Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart (1999).

In 1999 he created a site specific wall painting covering all the walls on the ground floor of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, as the introduction to the first part of the museum's millennium exhibition 'Modern Starts' curated by John Elderfield. He has recently completed major commissions for the new British Embassy in Moscow and the new British Council Headquarters in Berlin. He was one of the artists invited by the Royal Mail to design a stamp to celebrate the new millennium and was one of seven artists who designed a piece of furniture for the Glasgow Collection, part of Glasgow 1999: UK City of Architecture and Design.

He will make site specific wall paintings for the exhibition 'New British Art 2000: Intelligence' at the Tate Britain, London in July, for the exhibition 'Die scheinbaren Dinge' in Haus der Kunst, Munich in September and later the same month in the IVAM Centre Julio Gonzalez in Valencia, Spain.

A fully illustrated catalogue including a conversation between the artist and Enrique Juncosa, Head of the Curatorial Department at IVAM, Valencia, accompanies the exhibition. Images of works can be viewed on the website.

For further information or photographs, please contact Caren Ratzel or Hester van Roijen

Waddington Galleries, 11 Cork Street, London, W1X 2LT

Telephone: +44 20 7851 2200 Facsimile: +44 20 7734 4146

Monday - Friday 10am - 5.30pm Saturday 10am - 1.00pm

E-mail: mail@waddington-galleries.com Website: <http://www.waddington-galleries.com>