

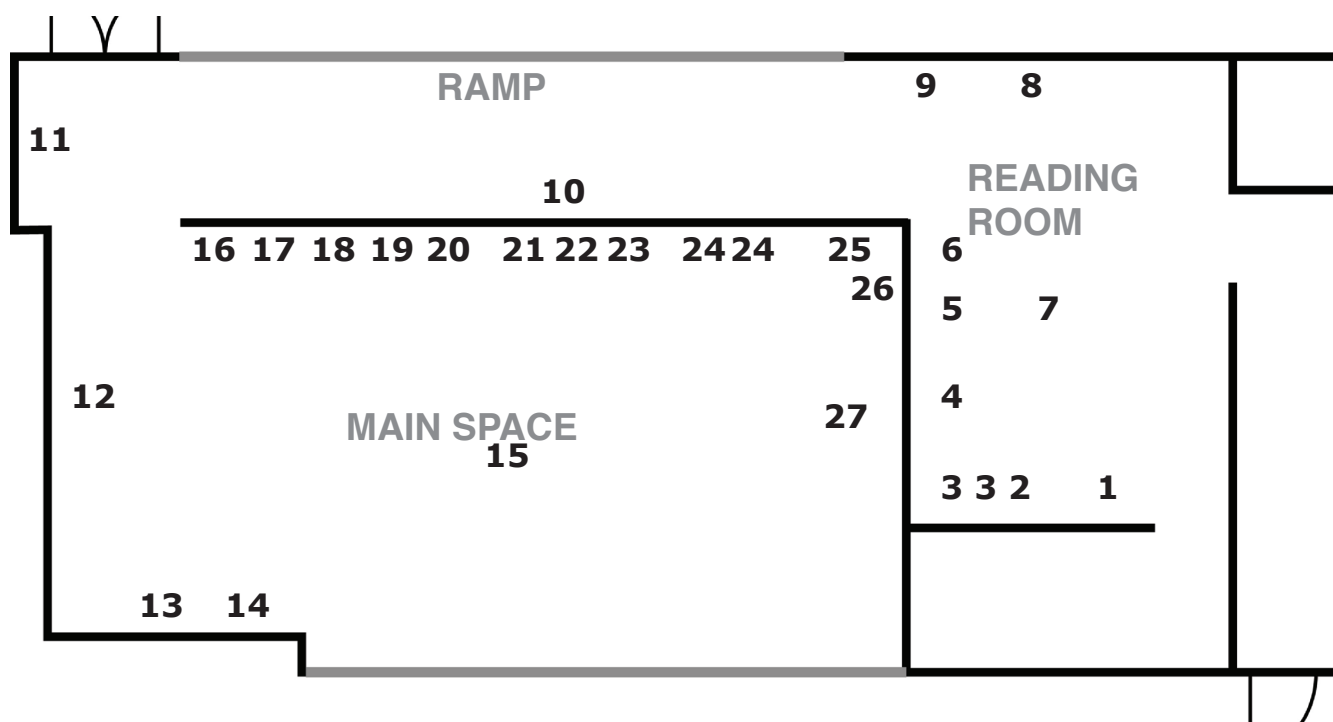
# Chelsea Space

## ***Astro-poems and Vertical Group Exercises: Concrete poetry at CSA***

Curated by **Gustavo Grandal Montero**

13 June – 13 July 2018

Chelsea Space presents ***Astro-poems and vertical group exercises: Concrete poetry at CSA*** [Chelsea School of Art], curated by **Gustavo Grandal Montero**, librarian and researcher. The exhibition surveys the adoption of Concrete Poetry by British artists and designers, charting its evolution in the central years of the 1960s, displaying a range of experimental approaches on and off the page that explore the possibilities of language materialised into 3D objects, and the relationship between these constructions and their surrounding spaces. The exhibition presents key original artworks from this period by **Tom Edmonds** (1944-1971), student and later lecturer at CSA and influential designer, artist and educator **Edward Wright** (1912-1988), Head of Graphics at CSA, with collaborations from a range of other artists, such as Ian Hamilton Finlay and Dom Sylvester Houédard, and newly discovered archival documentation.



## LIST OF WORKS

All works on loan from Chelsea College of Arts Library, University of the Arts London, except where indicated.

### READING ROOM

#### 1. Wall Cabinet (Left to right, top to bottom)

- *Form* issue no. 4, 1967 (2 copies)
- *Poor.Old.Tired.Horse* no. 24, Concrete Poetry at the Brighton '67 Festival
- *Sussex Outlook*, April 14-30, 1967 [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Brighton Festival 1967 official programme [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Augusto de Campos, *Liguaviagem poemcube*, 1967 (Brighton Festival, design by Philip Steadman)

#### 2. Shelves

Edward Wright, *Graphic work & Painting: an Arts Council exhibition*, 1985

#### 3. Framed on wall (Left to right)

- *Six concrete poems: Brighton Festival, 1967* (six cards in envelope, design by Edward Wright, artwork by Elizabeth Greenbaum and Alan Rickman)
- Four postcards sent to Stephen Bann from contributors:
  - a From Dom Sylvester Houédard: pm. 19/4/67 [Stephen Bann Collection]
  - b From Ian Hamilton Finlay, Pondystone, 21 April: pm. 21/4/67; [Stephen Bann Collection]
  - c From Eugen Gomringer, Frauenfeld, W. Germany; [Stephen Bann Collection]
  - d From Gerhard Rühm, Berlin: pm (sent on from Cambridge) 15/1/68 [Stephen Bann Collection]

4. Photograph of *4 Catrina 4* (tinplate relief by Edward Wright, 1967) [Paula Claire Archive]

5. Photograph of *Long Vowel Poem* banner by Edward Wright being hung at Chelsea School of Art, 1969? [William Cobbing Collection]

6. Photograph of *Long Vowel Poem* banner by Edward Wright in situ at Chelsea School of Art (library window), 1969? [William Cobbing Collection]

#### 7. Table (Counter Clockwise from Gallery entrance)

- Letter to Stephen Bann from Edward Wright regarding designs for the Brighton Festival Concrete Poetry show, 19/10/66: 'You can count on me and a group of students of mine at Chelsea ...' [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Letter from Sir Hugh Casson to Stephen Bann regarding 'the concrete poem' for the Brighton Festival, 1/12/66 [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Letter to Stephen Bann from Edward Wright regarding designs for the Brighton Festival Concrete Poetry show: 'I could do the following..' (series of postcards costed and banners sketched, 3 sheets) [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Estimate of total cost for Concrete Poetry exhibition, carbon of typescript, 31 March 1967 [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Letter to Stephen Bann from Edward Wright, 4/4/67: 'Banner and flag are ready' (request for reimbursement) [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Note to Stephen Bann from Edward Wright (further bills sent for payment) [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Brighton Festival, Concrete Poetry Exhibition, List of works, 1967 [facsim.]

- Record of sales with names of purchasers: Cubepoems, postcard sets, Beloit Poetry Journal [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Letter from Edwin Morgan, author of permutational poem for Brighton Festival, 24/4/67 [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Postcard from David DeSilva (Chelsea student, regarding his work after Mathias Goeritz) 3/4/67 [Stephen Bann Collection]
- Letter from Augusto de Campos to Ian Hamilton Finlay, Sao Paulo, 22/7/66 (Includes suggestion for the future poemcube) [Stephen Bann Collection]
- 2 contact sheets of photographs by Graham Keen of the Concrete Poetry Exhibition at Brighton Festival, April 67 [Bob Cobbing Family Collection]
- Photograph of *Ein text passiert* (1967) by Claus Bremer, designed and produced by Edward Wright with Roger Limbrick, hanging from the library windows at Chelsea School of Art [Bob Cobbing Family Collection]
- Photograph by Patrick Eagar of banner (Claus Bremer *Ein text passiert*) with *Amber Sands* by Stephen Bann in the background [Stephen Bann Collection]

## 8. Wall Case (Left to Right)

### Top shelf

- *Chelsea School of Art Prospectus, 1964/65*
- Openings Press announcement leaflet, 1964 [Paula Claire Archive]
- Louis Zukofsky, *Finally a Valentine: a poem* (Opening, 1), 1965 (typographer, Edward Wright; artist, John Furnival)
- Dom Sylvester Houédard, *Frog, pond, plop*, 1965 (designed by Edward Wright with Nazli Zaki and Matilda Cheung)
- Ian Hamilton Finlay, *Four Sails*, 1966 (design by Edward Wright)
- Ian Hamilton Finlay, *Four Sails*, 1969 (postcard photograph of the glass poem of the same name, 1966, designed by Edward Wright)
- Colour photograph of glass poem *star/steer* (design by Edward Wright, based on postcard for Brighton Festival collection); photographed at Stonypath by R.L. Williamson. Received 20/5/68 [Stephen Bann Collection]
- *Poor.Old.Tired.Horse*, issue no. 16

### Bottom Shelf

- Charles Verey, *Loom song no. 3* (postcard sent to Edward Wright), 1969
- Edward Wright, *Text programmed on a vowel sequence with semantic association*, 1969 [Paula Claire Archive]
- Edward Wright, Letter to Bob Cobbing, 28/03/1970 [Bob Cobbing Family Collection]
- Postcard from Dom Sylvester Houédard to Edward Wright, 1971?
- Dom Sylvester Houédard, Letter to Edward Wright, including artwork, 15/10/1971
- Little Book Fair Press June 1971, announcement leaflet (includes photograph of *Long Vowel Poem* banner and *Linguaviagem* poemcube) [Bob Cobbing Family Collection]
- Photograph of the Little Book Fair Press June 1971 (includes *Long Vowel Poem* banner) [Bob Cobbing Family Collection]

## 9. Framed on wall (Left to right)

- Photograph of Edward Wright supervising the hanging of *Wind* for the Concrete Poetry Exhibition at Brighton in April 1967 [Paula Claire Archive]
- Photograph of Edward Wright with *Wind* at the Concrete Poetry Exhibition at Brighton in April 1967 [Paula Claire Archive]

## RAMP

10. Facsimile material from the Reading Room

11. *Long Vowel Poem* by Edward Wright, 1969? (textile banner) [Bob Cobbing Family Collection]

## MAIN SPACE

12. Slide show featuring Tom Edmonds' astro-poems

13. Tom Edmonds, *In Silence* (glass box), 1966 [Frances Griffin Collection]

14. Tom Edmonds, *Humbug Poem* (glass box), 1968 [Frances Griffin Collection]

### 15. Documentation case

- Between poetry and painting [catalogue] 1965
- 5 young artists [catalogue] 1966
- Arlington-une [catalogue] 1966
- Artypo: kunst, gemaakt met behulp van grafische technieken [catalogue] 1967
- Arlington-quadro [catalogue] 1968
- Sound texts, concrete poetry, visual texts [catalogue] 1971
- Wall show [catalogue] 1971
- Gloup and Woup [portfolio anthology] 1974
- Set of slides documenting the 1967 Diploma show at Chelsea School of Art (CSA)
- Set of photographs documenting Tom Edmonds work [Richard Saltoun Collection]
- Documentation and photographs of the Serpentine Gallery Memorial show, 1972 [Frances Griffin Collection]
- Photograph of Tom Edmonds in the Mawddach Estuary, Merionethshire, by Frances Newman, 1969/70 [Frances Griffin Collection]

16. Tom Edmonds, *Bang* (canvas), 1965? [Frances Griffin Collection]

17. Tom Edmonds, *Five Five* (canvas), 1965? [Frances Griffin Collection]

18. Tom Edmonds, *Keep Out Peak Out* (canvas), 1965 [Frances Griffin Collection]

19. Tom Edmonds, *Fizz Flat* (canvas), 1965? [Frances Griffin Collection]

20. Tom Edmonds, *Yellow* (canvas), 1965 [Frances Griffin Collection]

21. Tom Edmonds, *zzzz (?)* (type track) [Frances Griffin Collection]

22. Tom Edmonds, *Pages poem (?)* (type track) [Frances Griffin Collection]

23. Tom Edmonds, *A tribute to Komarov cosmonaut*, 1969 (type track) [Frances Griffin Collection]

24. Tom Edmonds, *Pie in the Sky* (P - E), 1968 (series of type tracks) [Frances Griffin Collection]

25. Tom Edmonds, *Five verses of towards me writing a book* (5 pages, type tracks), 1970-1 [Charles Verey Collection]

26. Tom Edmonds, *Sunset on poetry* (postcard), 1967 [Richard Saltoun Collection]

27. Tom Edmonds, *Positions* (glass box), 1966 [Chris Yetton Collection]

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## PUBLIC PROGRAMME

A panel discussion including Stephen Bann, Charles Verey and Chris Yetton will accompany the gallery programme on 27 June 2018 6-7.30pm, Lecture Theatre, Chelsea College of Arts.

A series of tours will take place on 4 July from 2pm, with a curator tour of the exhibition, a typography tour with Fraser Muggeridge and a performative tour of selected works with Nicola Simpson.