

# Words by Beckett Press Release

*Over, over, there is a soft place in my heart for all that is over, no, for the being over, words have been my only loves, not many.* - from 'First Love'

Cat Hill Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of commissioned works to celebrate the centenary of Irish writer and playwright Samuel Beckett.

'Words by Beckett' is an exhibition featuring various new works by fourteen leading typographers, graphic designers and visual artists. The works range from calligraphy to letterpress to litho print to mixed media, all using Beckett's words as the source of inspiration.

Samuel Beckett's unique vision in language is a great source of inspiration and discovery to anyone who loves words. He has reinvented the possibilities of language, arguably more than anyone else in Western literature, and many artists have responded to his legacy in different forms in literature, music, performance and visual art. This exhibition intends particularly to focus on Beckett's influence on artists who express their vision through written form of words and find inspiration in the languages of great literature.

Contributors to this exhibition are Phil Baines, Nick Bell, Ewan Clayton, Catherine Dixon, Vince Frost, Ian Gabb, Malcolm Garrett, Kerr|Noble, Alan Kitching, Russell Mills, Tomato, V3, Why Not Associates, Christopher Wilson.

## **Phil Baines**

Phil Baines has worked as a freelance graphic designer since leaving the RCA in 1987 and among his clients are Matts Gallery London; Penguin Books & Phaidon Press. His writing includes the books *Type & typography*, with Andrew Haslam (2002), *Signs: lettering in the environment*, with Catherine Dixon (2003), and *Penguin by design: a cover story 1935–2005* (2005); and frequent contributions to *Eye* magazine. Earlier this year he became Professor of Typography at University of the Arts London: Central Saint Martins, where he has taught since 1991, With Catherine Dixon, he also curates the college's Central Lettering Record.

## **Nick Bell Design**

Nick Bell Design is an independent graphic design consultancy that works on local, national and international projects with public and private organisations active in both corporate and cultural fields. They design for print, three dimensional environments and the digital realm.

Nick Bell Design's approach to visual communication is driven by a close attention to context and a belief that design can only be original and relevant if it finds inspiration from the conditions and circumstances out of which it is required. Nick Bell Design sees visual communication as essentially a social process that can only proceed appropriately through collaboration with those people who ask for it and need it.

## **Ewan Clayton**

Ewan Clayton lives in Brighton, where he runs his own calligraphy studio. He is Professor of Calligraphy and Design at the University of Sunderland. For sixteen years he also worked as a consultant to the Xerox Palo Alto Research Centre with an interest in new technology and quality of life issues. Growing up near Ditchling, Sussex, he and two earlier generations of his family worked in a guild of craftsmen founded by Eric Gill. Ewan has exhibited work widely in the UK, Europe, North America and Asia and this year has two solo exhibitions of calligraphy running, one in the UK and the other in Germany.

## **Catherine Dixon**

Catherine Dixon has worked as a freelance designer since graduating from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, London in 1992. Clients include Penguin Books, Laurence King and Phaidon Press. As a writer she is a regular contributor to *Eye*, has worked on the website [publiclettering.org.uk](http://publiclettering.org.uk) and co-authored with Phil Baines the book *Signs: lettering in the environment* (2003). She completed her PhD in typeform description at CSM in 2001 since when she has continued to pursue typographic research interests, now alongside her position as Senior Lecturer in typography. With Phil Baines she also curates the college's Central lettering Record.

## **Vince Frost** Creative Director Frost Design, Sydney

Born in England and raised in Canada, Vince Frost regularly addresses conferences and judges design competitions around the globe. In 1989 he joined Pentagram in London and just three years later was their youngest Associate at 27. Two years later he started his own studio, Frost Design, London creating award-winning work for clients from *The Independent* newspaper to Nike.

In 2003 Vince relocated to Sydney Australia, from where he now runs his 25+ creative studio – working on anything from postage stamps to magazines, identities, TV advertising, online and the built environment. He continues to work for a range of international clients, including D&AD's magazine *Ampersand*, as well as Warner Music, Macquarie Bank and Sydney Dance Company. Frost's work was the subject of a retrospective at the Sydney Opera House from January to March 2006, and will feature in a major design exhibition at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum in late 2006. Frost's work is also documented in a 500-page book *Frost\*(sorry trees)*, spanning more than a decade of award-winning projects. [www.frostdesign.com.au](http://www.frostdesign.com.au)

## **Ian Gabb**

Born 1966, Barnehurst, Kent. Libran. Letterpress Technician, Royal College of Art. Arrived there via Elephant and Castle, Cockfosters, Milan, Elephant and Castle again, Clerkenwell and numerous places in between.

## **Malcolm Garrett RDI** Creative Director AIG, London

Malcolm Garrett is one of Britain's best-known graphic artists, a pioneer of interactive design and the first designer working in interactive media to be made a Royal Designer for Industry (2000).

From 1994 to 2002 Malcolm was Creative Director at the interactive communications company AMX. Previously he founded Assorted Images (in 1978) and co-directed the company until 1994, producing seminal artwork for artists like the Buzzcocks, Duran Duran, Simple Minds and Peter Gabriel.

Malcolm is Visiting Professor at Central St Martins and was a Visiting Professor in Interaction Design at the RCA. In 1998 he received a Prince Philip Designers Prize nomination and in 2005 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Design by the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

## **Kerr | Noble**

Kerr | Noble is a graphic design consultancy.

*'Kerr | Noble turn the received wisdom on information design on its head. In the face of a graphic orthodoxy insisting that clarity thrives on the cool and impersonal, Kerr | Noble suffuse their designs with wit and idiosyncrasy.'* Emily King, Design Writer, Frieze Magazine

Clients include: Artangel, British Council, Design Council, David Chipperfield Architects, Liberty, Natural History Museum, Phaidon, Serpentine Gallery, Tate Britain & Tate Modern, Thomas Heatherwick Studio, Tony Kaye, Victoria & Albert Museum, and Ogilvy & Mather, New York, Wellcome Trust.

## **Alan Kitching RDI**

Alan Kitching is one of the world's foremost practitioners of letterpress typographic design and printmaking. He is renowned for his expressive use of wood and metal letterforms in creating visuals for commissions and his own limited edition prints. He has shown in London and Barcelona, and contributed to various exhibitions in Europe including the Pompidou Centre Paris, the British Library and the Barbican Art Gallery London. Alan is visiting tutor in typography at The Royal College of Art and Visiting Professor, University of the Arts London. He lives and works in Kennington London with designer, writer and partner Celia Stothard.

## **Russell Mills**

Russell Mills, multimedia artist, has exhibited and created site-specific installations, videos and soundworks in solo and group exhibitions globally. He has created stage sets and lighting for some of the most innovative contemporary performers, choreographers and musicians of recent decades. He has produced influential book covers and award winning album covers. His work is held in private and public collections worldwide. He has produced soundworks for film, radio and performance and has released two CDs under the name "Undark". Recent installations include "Hold" 2004-05, Palazzo delle Papesse Centre for Contemporary Art, Sienna, "Blue Tears" 2005, Silo, Centre for Contemporary Art, Oporto and "Debris Field" 2006, Bolton Museum of Art. Mills lectures extensively

at colleges and universities in the UK and abroad; he is currently Visiting Lecturer at the Royal College of Art and Visiting Professor at Glasgow School of Art. Mills lives and works in Ambleside, Cumbria. [www.russellmills.com](http://www.russellmills.com), [www.shedrecordings.com](http://www.shedrecordings.com)

## **Tomato**

Tomato has been in existence since 1991. It's a group of people who choose to work together on a variety of projects both commercial and non-commercial. Tomato has exhibited its work in galleries as far afield as München (Die neue sammlung) Hanover (Sprengel museum), Castellon, Spain (The museum of modern art) and Tokyo (Ginza artspace). The group has published several books among them *Process* (1996) and *Bareback* (2001). Tomato's commercial clients include Nike, Adidas, New York City, the Spanish government, the Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm, City of Barcelona, Volkswagen, Chanel and many more. Michael Horsham has been involved with the group since 1994 and joined in 1996.

## **V3**

Venturethree makes brands. We work across a range of industries and in many different countries. We are building a new kind of identity company to become the most influential, independent identity company in the world. A company where people can take risks go beyond what's already been done and do it before anyone else does.

## **Why Not Associates**

Andy Altmann graduated in graphic design from the Royal College of Art in 1987 and almost immediately formed the multi-disciplinary design group Why Not Associates with fellow graduates David Ellis and Howard Greenhalgh. Located in London, Why Not Associates gained an international reputation based on a creative and experimental approach. In 18 years of experience they have worked on projects ranging from exhibition design to postage stamps via advertising, publishing, television titles, commercials and corporate identity. Their clients include the Royal Academy of Arts, Malcolm McLaren, the Royal Mail, Nike, Paul Smith, Virgin Records and Channel 4.

A book was published in 1998 by Booth-Clibborn Editions documenting the first ten years of their work. A second was published in 2004 by Thames and Hudson which documented another five years. They still strive to push the boundaries of graphic design and more recent projects collaborating with artist Gordon Young have moved them into the world of public art.

## **Christopher Wilson / Oberphones**

b.1973, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. Studied at Central Saint Martins 1993–96; Royal College of Art 2000–02. Design/illustration for Cambridge University Press, Condé Nast, Emap Fashion, HarperCollins, Hull Film, Laurence King, National Film Theatre, Phaidon, Routledge, Royal Festival Hall and others. Texts for *DotDotDot*, *Eye*, *Grafik*, *Icon* and *TypoGraphic*. Designed, and wrote much of *Designed by Peter Saville* (Frieze, 2003). Sound work with Butt Terry (1994–2001), Pushbutton (reworking of Pan Sonic's *Aaltopiiri*, Royal College of Art, 2001), *Deliberate* (2002–06, including performance at Frieze Art Fair, 2003). Forthcoming: book on Phil Baines, *The world is my cloister*, Butt Terry remix compilation *No fixed address: redirections 1995–2006*.

## Notes to Editors

Cat Hill Gallery is a new space for contemporary art in South West London with a diverse selection of work by local and international artists. Through our dynamic programme of exhibitions, our mission is to provide an exciting alternative to a mainstream art scene as well as to promote an array of engaging contemporary art to the community.

Gallery Director Mediha Boran

This exhibition is curated by Woojung Chun

Private View: Thursday 29 June 2006

Exhibition: 30 June – 5 August 2006

Cat Hill Gallery

264 Merton Road, London SW18 5JL, United Kingdom

Tel: +44(0) 870 410 3299

[www.cathillart.com](http://www.cathillart.com) [info@cathillart.com](mailto:info@cathillart.com)

**For further information, images and the work list:**

contact: Woojung Chun, curator

[woojung@cathill.com](mailto:woojung@cathill.com)