

Jonathan Ellery Biography

Jonathan Ellery b. 1964, England

Jonathan Ellery's clarity of thought and the concise arrangement of his ideas resonate through all areas of his art practice. He playfully works across a wide range of media from sculpture to performance, film to photography. The medium of book art is also central to his work, molding paper, fonts and images as he would any other medium, to create tactile, hand numbered, objects of art. The foundation for Ellery's conceptual approach is the commonplace concerns of life, that of memories, his childhood, his relationship with women, his family, which on first glance appear disguised in a seemingly surreal, minimalist aesthetic.

The concept of his work is constant while the materials come and go, from traditional Portland stone and machined brass to digital technology and sound. The notion of sequence and of a gentle, unfolding narrative is at the core of his art, enforcing a distinctive Ellery language that offers each work as one part of a continuous and burgeoning series, strengthened by its succession. The deceptive simplicity of the work is informed by Ellery's awareness of the absurd, a delight in constructing certain orders and exploring the tensions between them; a crumpled beer mat next to a wooden sign painted by his father, a blossom next to a pin, a live drummer next to a girl undressing. These frictional couplings are used as tools to address the questions of daily life, forcing the viewer to build an imaginative construction of meaning.

Jonathan Ellery lives above his studio in London. His latest book, Ellery's Theory of Neo-conservative Creationism, was published this May as the fifth in his series of solo titles. An exhibition of the same name will take place this November at The Wapping Project. Ellery has had notable solo exhibitions in New York and in London, has contributed to many group shows worldwide and has received numerous private commissions.

www.jonathanelery.com

Jonathan Ellery
Biography continued

Solo Exhibitions:

2009

Ellery's Theory of Neo-conservative Creationism
Wapping Project, London

2008

Constance
Wapping Project, London

2007

Unrest
Wapping Project, London

2005

136 Points of Reference
Roth Gallery, New York

Group Exhibitions:

2008

Designs of the Year,
Design Museum, London

2007

Two Faced, Agnès B Libraire Gallery, Hong Kong
Art/Clic, Bankside Gallery, London

2006

British Social Posters. Past, Present and Future, British Council, Moscow
Felt-Tip, SEA Gallery, London
Urban Forest Project, Times Square, New York
My London/My City, ISTD, London

2005

Stuck On Me, Notting Hill Arts Club, London
European Design Show Biennial, Design Museum, London
Handmade, Museum of Design, Zurich

2004

Ballpoint, Pentagram Gallery, London
Public Address System, Henry Peacock Gallery, London

Solo publications:

2009

Ellery's Theory of Neo-conservative Creationism
Exhibition Catalogue

Jonathan Ellery

Published by Browns Editions

Ellery's Theory of Neo-conservative Creationism

Jonathan Ellery

Published by Browns Editions

2008

Constance

Jonathan Ellery

Published by Browns Editions

2007

Works in Brass

Jonathan Ellery

Published by Browns Editions

In and Out

Jonathan Ellery

Published by Browns Editions

2006

87 Ellery

Jonathan Ellery

Published by Browns Editions

2005

136 Points of Reference

Jonathan Ellery

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