

PIERS SECUNDA
The Rise of Oil
18th – 23rd November 2014



An exhibition of mono-prints made with crude oil

Piers Secunda makes sculptures out of paint, often constructing complex forms by carving and casting the medium in ways one would not think possible. In the spring of 2009, in search of a material which would apply the geopolitics of the real world to an abstract painting practice, Piers hit upon the idea of painting and printing his sculptures with crude oil.

Crude oil plays a fundamental role in every aspect of 21st century living, from energy and transport to agriculture and medicine, and is the main component of the world's most frequently used material – plastic. As the world's ultimate facilitator, Piers believes that crude oil must therefore be a contender as the ultimate artist's material. Its presence alone speaks immeasurable volumes but it is crude oil's ability to function as a paint and printing medium that allow it to be employed as an artistic tool. This is the area on which this exhibition focuses.

The Rise of Oil showcases a complex body of works which utilise silkscreen printing with crude oil to depict images of the early days of the oil industry. Each "fragment" sheet of cast paint has been printed with crude oil from the fields and wells which the art work depicts. These range from Baku in Azerbaijan and Spindletop in Texas to scenes of California and Colorado. After finding a photograph of Saudi Arabia's first successful oil well, Dammam Number 7, Piers searched for two years for oil from that specific well in order to silkscreen the photograph. Eventually, the oil was found, and the resulting crude oil print tells a story of a fleeting moment in time, little known to most people, which has had a seismic effect on global politics and economics ever since.

Recent exhibitions include: "Piers Secunda" A Retrospective, UpDown Gallery, 2014. "War Stories" William Holman Gallery, New York, 2015 (curated by Anthony Haden-Guest). Piers' work will be featured in the Asia Art Fair, London on the stand of Roell Fine Art (30th October – 8th November). He is currently working on a publication of crude oil works with Endeavour London Publishers. He is represented by UpDown Gallery in the UK, William Holman Gallery in New York, and Kuub Kulture Space in Holland.

ABOUT JESSICA CARLISLE

JESSICA CARLISLE was established in January 2014. A new gallery model, we present regular pop-up exhibitions in Kinnerton Street, Knightsbridge whilst hosting a number of private events throughout the year. The aim is to create an intimate, friendly and relaxed environment in which to discover and appreciate contemporary art. The gallery seeks to show work that engages on a visual level as much as an intellectual one, and that celebrates and rewards the act of looking.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Address: 83 Kinnerton Street, London SW1X 8ED (nearest tubes Knightsbridge / Hyde Park Corner)

Dates: Tuesday 18th – Sunday 23RD November 2014

Opening hours: 10am - 6pm (12pm – 6pm at weekend)

Late Opening: Thursday 20th November 6 - 8pm (with an artist talk at 7pm)

CONTACT DETAILS

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IMAGE CREDIT:

Spindletop 1912 (detail), 2013, Spindletop crude oil and varnish on industrial floor paint with cast paint nuts and bolts, 39 x 51 x 6 cm