

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

# Keith Wilson: Galvanised

Tue 30 Nov 2004 – Sun 23 Jan 2005

Admission free

Private View: Sat 4 Dec | 13.00-15.00 | All press & media welcome

This will be the most comprehensive exhibition by the British artist Keith Wilson for almost ten years. It comprises a selection of new and recent works, an offsite project at The Open University, Milton Keynes, and is supported by an exhibition catalogue.

Wilson is best known for his playful appropriation of familiar domestic objects and his interventions into the fabric of everyday life. His practice involves a deftness of touch and subtle humour; a puddle, a leaning rail, a pruned tree adorned with snooker cue tips. His work is at once playful and rigorous - objects, imbued with a domestic or industrial resonance - wardrobes, disused shelving, fire grates, or cement mixers – are brought together in a variety of assemblages and pairings to be scrutinised, enlarged, amended, or, as the artist would say, 'touched up'.

MK G's exhibition focuses on his most recent body of work, which includes a selection of large, galvanised steel sculptures. It is the first time that many of the sculptures have been seen in the context of a gallery. A collision of street furniture and cattle pens, railings and market stalls, they take the form of re-invented farm-yard architecture. The structures provide not only the support for the actions of the artist but also the audience. *Double Blind S-bend*, for instance, directly engages the body, allowing visitors to walk through the sculpture.

The exhibition includes a new work made specifically for MK G. *Periodic Table\_(2004)* takes the form of 109 galvanised steel cubes, each measuring 20" x 20" and arranged on the wall and across the floor, echoing the gridded format of the Periodic Table. Its formal qualities coincidentally reference the gridded Masterplan of the host city Milton Keynes. In appropriating the format of the Periodic Table, he playfully subverts the very scientific structure that orders the matter, the material, the stuff that daily passes through the artist's hand in his studio.

Keith Wilson: Galvanised is supported by The Henry Moore Foundation. The Offsite project is made with support of The Open University.

### **Catalogue**

A fully illustrated catalogue with texts by Penelope Curtis, Martin Holman, Doreen Massey, Michael Stanley and Mark Wilsher accompanies the exhibition. Available from the Information Desk. Price £14.00. Friends of MK G price £11.00.

### **EVENTS**

#### **In Conversation with Richard Cork**

Wed 8 Dec | 19.30 | Tickets £5 [£3 concs.] to include a glass of wine  
Hear Richard Cork, writer and arts correspondent, discuss sculpture spanning the mid-1960s to the present. Doors open at 19.00 for pre-talk viewing.

#### **'Look Who's Talking' Series**

Free | No booking required | All talks and tours run between 12.00-12.30  
MK G continues its series of free, informal talks and tours, with speakers offering their personal perspective on the Keith Wilson exhibition:

**Sat 11 Dec | Keith Wilson** Informal tour of the exhibition.

**Sat 22 Jan | Professor Tom Stephenson** Head of Industrial & Manufacturing Science, Cranfield University, Bedfordshire.

**Sat 15 Jan | Ruth Charity** Acting Director of Artpoint, the public art consultants and commissioners.

#### **Listings Information**

*Keith Wilson: Galvanised* Milton Keynes Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. Tel: 01908 676 900. Admission free. Open Tues-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 11.00-17.00. Closed Mondays and for exhibition changeovers.

#### **Press Information**

During the preview hours on Saturday 4 December a complimentary minibus will provide a shuttle service between MK G and The Open University for access to the offsite project.

For further information or images please contact Katharine Sorensen or Lorna Gemmell on 01908 558 302 or email [k.sorensen@mk-g.org](mailto:k.sorensen@mk-g.org) or [l.gemmell@mk-g.org](mailto:l.gemmell@mk-g.org).

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