

# Milton Keynes Gallery

## Press Release

**Richard Woods: *Flora & Fauna***

28 June – 21 September 2008

Admission free

Sponsored by Dulux Trade



Exterior Commission supported by the Abbey Harris Mural Fund



Richard Woods: Proposal for *Flora & Fauna*, Exterior Commission, Milton Keynes Gallery, 2008. Image courtesy the artist.

Milton Keynes Gallery presents new work by artist Richard Woods in his first solo exhibition in a British public gallery.

On arrival visitors see Woods' striking commission for the Gallery exterior which cloaks the building in a repeat pattern of fictitious logos he has devised. Whilst appearing to be mass produced they are all individual wood cut prints, and bring together Woods' distinctive hand-made aesthetic with the generic language of brand advertising. Woods' visual intervention makes reference, in part, to the sometimes uncomfortable relationship between public art venues and art world corporate sponsors. Inside the entire ground floor of the Gallery is covered with *Logo no.51*, 2008, Woods' remarkable wood-cut printed floor, and he presents a selection of recent sculptures, new wall-based ceramic works and large scale marquetry panels.

Woods has a long-running history of architectural intervention and transformation. He is known for his all-encompassing installations of hand-printed wood-cut floors and elevations, which have been presented in a variety of contexts, from British stately homes to a Venetian courtyard, and from public buildings or private apartments to international boutique stores. In his work, Woods explores the relationship between 'functionality' and 'decoration', with motifs varying from simple, repetitive red brick work to intricate floral designs, or pastiches of historical styles and artistic movements; Tudor, 18th century Baroque or as in this exhibition, the legacy of Modernism.

**Live Guides:** Every Saturday from 2-4pm during the exhibition volunteers will be available to provide visitors with information about the exhibition to encourage discussion.

**Family Day:** Saturday 12 July, 11am– 4 pm, free

Come and join artists and Gallery staff for a day of free, creative fun. Explore the imaginative and inspiring work of Richard Woods with your children and take part in creative and inspirational activities. Coincides with the Big Moo Festival Weekend in Milton Keynes.

**Talkback:** Saturday 19 July, 11–11.30 am

An informal, discussion based tour of the exhibition with members of the Gallery education team. Everyone is welcome. No booking required. Just turn up.

**In Conversation - Richard Woods, Sebastian Wrong and Paul Bonaventura:** Thursday 24 July, 7–8:30 pm. Join Richard Woods in a discussion about his work with Sebastian Wrong, designer and founder of Established & Sons. Also joining them will be Paul Bonaventura, Senior Research Fellow at The Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art, Oxford.

**Talk Series: What is Contemporary Design?**

Places are free, but pre-booking required on 01908 676 900 during gallery opening hours.

**Art and Architecture:** Thursday 10 July, 7–8:30 pm

Alex de Rijke, Director of dRMM Architects, the firm who designed the award winning MK Forty Tower, will discuss the interaction between art and architectural practice.

**C4D:** Thursday 17 July, 7–8:30 pm

Join Professor Tom Stephenson of Cranfield University and Mike Goatman, Course Director of MDes for Innovation and Creativity in Industry at Cranfield University as they discuss the development of innovative design in Milton Keynes.

**The Art of Lighting:** Thursday 11 September, 7–8pm

Claire Norcross, the Lighting Design Manager at Habitat talks through the crossovers of art and design in her leading sculptural lighting designs.

**Workshops:** There is a comprehensive range of workshops for young people. Please see the gallery brochure or [www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org) for further details.

**Free Prize Draw: Win a Bean Bag designed by Richard Woods**

Courtesy of Memphis/Post Design

All visitors to the exhibition are invited to enter this Draw to win a fantastic bean bag valued at £1,000. Winner chooses from one of three designs. To purchase a bean bag contact [info@richardwoodsstudio.com](mailto:info@richardwoodsstudio.com).

**Gallery Open:** Tues – Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11am–5pm, Thurs open late until 8pm.

**Milton Keynes Gallery:** 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA

**Telephone:** 01908 676 900 **Website:** [www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org)

For Milton Keynes Gallery further information please contact Rosie Jackson on **01908 558 302** or email [r.jackson@mk-g.org](mailto:r.jackson@mk-g.org).