

Press Release

17 April 2023

Boyd & Evans: High Time

27 May – 17 September 2023



Celebrating 55 Years of Boyd & Evans

This summer MK Gallery presents a major survey exhibition of the work of Fionnuala Boyd (b. 1944, Welwyn Garden City) and Les Evans (b. 1945, St. Albans). After meeting as students, the artists have worked in collaboration as Boyd & Evans since 1968. The exhibition will be their first solo show in a public gallery in over ten years.

The exhibition will focus on Boyd & Evans' practice as painters and span their careers from early work capturing existential dramas in urban and suburban settings and landscapes in Milton Keynes to their extensive travels in the USA and the rainforests of Brunei. Looking back across Boyd & Evans' career, you could be mistaken for thinking there are several different artists at work. Their subjects, style and working methods change dramatically over the years, using many different approaches to what they describe as 'the problem of painting'.

In 1980 Boyd & Evans were invited by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation to undertake their first commission for the New Town. They were then invited back as artists in residence and remained ever since. One of their best-known pieces, *Fiction, Non-fiction and Reference* (1984), is permanently installed in the Central Library. This epic painting combines current affairs and art history in an ambitious composition that shows a city whose fabric and identity are under construction.

Working closely with the artists, the exhibition at MK Gallery will be a retrospective of their 55-year career featuring over 80 paintings, as well as showcasing new work. A major catalogue will accompany the exhibition, with newly commissioned essays and extended commentaries on each work.

"Coming for a year, forty years ago, we are still here by choice, and delighted to show work we have done from the last 55 years, in a splendid gallery, in 'our' city." – Boyd & Evans, April 2023

To book tickets: <https://mkgallery.org/event/boyd-evans/>

Images: <https://bit.ly/boydandevansimages>

For further information, contact MK Gallery

press@mkgallery.org

or

Angus Norton

anorton@mkgallery.org

01908 558 31

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

MK Gallery is an educational charitable trust. The Gallery re-opened its doors in early 2019 after a major renovation and expansion, designed by 6a architects. The new, fully accessible, facility won three RIBA awards and has more than doubled the Gallery's footprint with enhanced GIS compliant exhibition galleries, a new auditorium and social and learning spaces.

The original Gallery opened in 1999 with a solo exhibition of Gilbert & George and had, prior to re-opening, presented over 60 wide-ranging exhibitions of contemporary art including solo exhibitions of Marcel Broodthaers, Michael Craig-Martin, Mark Leckey, Nasreen Mohamedi, Olivia Plender, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Melanie Smith and Andy Warhol.

Since re-opening, the Gallery has expanded its remit to show historic exhibitions alongside the contemporary. In the new Gallery's opening year, it welcomed more than 150,000 visitors to its critically acclaimed exhibitions: *The Lie of the Land*; *Paula Rego: Obedience and Defiance*; and *George Stubbs: 'all done from Nature'*.

In 2019/20 it presented a major overview of Memphis the radical 1980s design group; *Laura Knight: A Panoramic View*; and the Turner Prize nominated *Ingrid Pollard: Carbon Slowly Turning*. The Gallery runs dynamic outreach and events programmes and is a regular publisher and commissioner of new work, often in partnership with an extensive international network. MK Gallery is part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio and a member of the Plus Tate network.



[MK Gallery review – utterly, thrillingly Milton Keynesian | Architecture | The Guardian](#)

[George Stubbs's animal instinct | Apollo Magazine \(apollo-magazine.com\)](#)

[Unmistakable, unignorable and unmissable — Paula Rego at MK Gallery review | Times2 | The Times](#)

[Ingrid Pollard: Carbon Slowly Turning, MK Gallery, review: A chilling, revelatory show | i News](#)

[Ingrid Pollard: the Turner nominee uncovering Britain's secret shame – review | The Guardian](#)

[Vivian Maier: Anthology review – the attentive, intimate images behind the myth | The Guardian](#)