

8 NOV 1989



TATE GALLERY LIVERPOOL

*The National Collection
of Modern Art in the
North of England*

6 November 1989

Steve Partridge
Duncan of Jordanstone
College of Art
Perth Road
Dundee
Angus
Scotland

Dear Steve

New North

I enjoyed meeting you and looking at your pieces when I visited Dundee on Monday. It was also very helpful to have conversations about how you feel video is presented in the gallery. I think your instinct to extend the Sentences work through a publication or booklet of some kind is a very sound one.

Vide Voce, The Threes in the Four has stayed with me very strongly as an impressive work. I think the single monitor work of Interrun also works extremely well.

As I mentioned I shall be making the selection for the exhibition before the end of November, and will be in touch at that time.

Thank you very much for talking over with me the work of Pictorial Heroes and putting me in touch with Leigh Cox. When I got back to Liverpool I discovered a tape from Pictorial Heroes on my desk which was just as well as I didn't have time to get to Glasgow during this trip to Scotland.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Lewis Biggs
Curator, Exhibitions and Displays

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TATE GALLERY LIVERPOOL
INFORMATION

NEW NORTH EXHIBITION

Information Release

Tate Gallery Liverpool is preparing an exhibition in collaboration with the Festivals Office, Glasgow, under the working title 'New North'. The exhibition will open in Liverpool at the end of May 1990 and will tour to Newcastle (Laing Gallery) where it will coincide with the Gateshead Garden Festival and form a part of the 'Tyne International' art events programme; Glasgow (during Glasgow's year as 'European City of Culture'); and Londonderry (Orchard Gallery). It is sponsored by MOBIL with additional support from Granada TV.

The intention of the exhibition is to draw attention to the high quality of art currently being made in the north of the British Isles. It is concerned with demonstrable success, not with 'promise', or 'discovering new talent'. Consistent with the Tate's programme, the accent of the exhibition will be 'international' both in the sense that it will draw on art from Scotland, Ireland and England, and in the sense that the art will be of a quality on a level with the best art being produced in other Northern European countries. It will also be 'local', in the sense of non-metropolitan. The participating artists have chosen to work in a specific regional locality and at one remove from the spotlight of the market place even while their art is sold there.

The exhibition will be selected during November 1989 by Lewis Biggs, Curator of Exhibitions at Tate Gallery Liverpool, after around 70 visits to artists studios in N Wales, N England, Scotland and N Ireland. The selection will be made from existing artworks. There will be no commissions. It is expected that the exhibits will be paintings, photographs and sculptures, and possibly single-monitor videos. (IE It will complement Edge '90, North Face, Tyne International and other events next summer which emphasise 'public', installation, outdoor and time-based art.) Exhibits will be selected to make coherent groups of each artists' work; the public will be presented with a body of work (rather than isolated items) by 12 or 15 artists.

Tate Gallery has sought help from 11 'regional advisers' in drawing up a short list of studios to visit. The advisers, all of whom have run exhibition programmes themselves, were chosen as being most likely to know which artists working in their region have been most consistently successful. There will be no "committee decisions" in this exhibition - every artist's work has been put forward on the basis of personal enthusiasm, and the adviser concerned will justify her or his enthusiasm in the catalogue. In addition to the names of five artists from their own locality, advisers have in most cases put forward names of artists in other areas.

Advisers: Tessa Jackson, Festivals Office Glasgow; Declan McGonagle, Orchard Gallery, Londonderry; Ted Hickey, Ulster Museum, Belfast; Andrew Nairne, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow; Keith Hartley, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; Fiona McLeod, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; Mike Collier, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mike Tooby, Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield; Caroline Krzesinska, Cartwright Hall, Bradford; Jill Morgan, Rochdale Art Gallery, Rochdale; Bryan Biggs, Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool

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