

ROBERT MARSDEN & BRYAN ILLSLEY
Conclusions and Cancellations

14 March to 27 April 2019

Marsden Woo Gallery is delighted to announce a joint display by contemporaries and friends Robert Marsden and Bryan Illsley. The exhibition will feature gallery artist Robert Marsden's new body of minimalist plinth-based sculptures alongside Illsley's lively dramatic paintings, and demonstrates their differing, yet instinctual, relationship with their respective materials.

For Marsden, in considering the perception of volumetric and geometric form, these apparently simple rectilinear objects, rather than the old adage of being 'found in a block of stone', have been found in solid bars of aluminium, cut, machined and assembled into abstract, perhaps architectonic, forms.

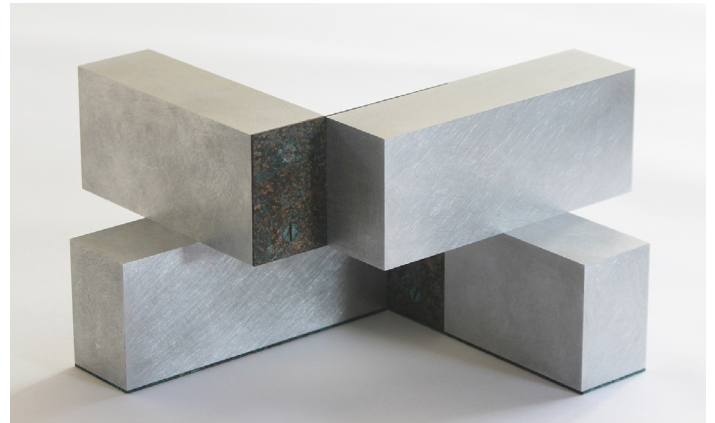
The use of both patinated and self-coloured sheet brass, bronze and copper, combined with the reflective qualities of the scratch finished aluminium, dark and light surfaces and shadows deliberately cause a visual uncertainty.

These contrasting elements also occur in Bryan Illsley's 'refused paintings', where the artist has painted over large areas of his canvas in swathes of colour, covering up what was once underneath. Traces of his brushwork can be seen at every stage, lending a vigorous fervour and uniquely expressive quality to each piece.

The boldness of impulse and spontaneous touch of Illsley's extraordinarily executed mark-making creates a playful duality with Marsden's meticulously considered sculptural forms.

For more information, images or to arrange an interview with the artist(s) please contact Tatjana Marsden or Siobhan Feeney
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Robert Marsden is best known for his extraordinary, uncompromising minimalist metal sculpture. He works on a variety of scales from tabletop sculptures to monumental outdoor pieces. His most recent series of pared down forms draw attention to the subtle permutations of their patinated brass components and the particular spatial relationships that come into play at the juxtaposition of one shape with another. Marsden studied at High Wycombe College of Technology and the Royal College of Art. He has exhibited internationally and his work can be found in the Crafts Council Collection, London; Birmingham Museum & City Art Gallery; Shipley Art Gallery; Sheffield Assay Office; and the National Gallery of Australia.


 Image top: Robert Marsden, *Set Square No. 6* (2017)

 Bottom: Bryan Illsley, from the *Refused Paintings* series (2016)

The diverse practice of **Bryan Illsley** includes; painting, sculpture, book manufacture, design, print and jewellery making. Before studying at Kingston School of Art, he served an apprenticeship with a monumental stonemason. He was based in St Ives from the early 1960s until his return to London in 1986. In St Ives, alongside his own studio practice, he worked for the Leach Pottery before forming a partnership with Breon O'Casey making jewellery. Public collections that hold examples of his work include the Arts Council, Crafts Council, Contemporary Arts Society, Victoria & Albert Museum, Kettles Yard, Cambridge and the Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto.