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Nicholas Byrne Biography

Nicholas Byrne's paintings on copper unite abstract and figurative elements with a strong sensibility for colour and formal harmony. A key part of Byrne's work is his interest in symbols and forms with recurring motifs and geometric shapes, which the artist overlays with areas of colour rendered in different textures.

Exploring Byrne's practice in 2021, Tom Morton writes, "While Byrne concedes that his work has the general 'stink' of mid-century British Modernism, it is more concerned with the stewardship and perversion of a visual language that he has found himself working in since his schooldays than the blithe appropriation of a currently fashionable episode from the history of art. Byrne has described himself as a 'handler' of his works and while their cuts and scratches recall the necessary wounds of surgery, they also recall more trivial bodily incursions: the running of a comb's teeth through tangled hair, or the pressing of a stud into a fleshy earlobe."

"LOVE" a series of sculptures by Nicholas Byrne and Anthea Hamilton is an ever-growing collection of objects: a kimono (First LOVE Kimono, 2013), a set of animations (LOVE: Calypsos, 2009 and LOVE: LXVX, 2014) and an ongoing series of large inflatables "LOVE", 2012-ongoing. The inflatables have previously been shown at the Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin; Burning Down the House: 10th Gwangju Biennale; Glasgow International, and Frieze Projects East.

Nicholas Byrne (b. 1979, UK) lives and works in London. Solo and two-person exhibitions include: Liver of Sulphur, VI, VII, Oslo; LOVE, Cold Shower, with Anthea Hamilton, Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin; Finish your sentence, and Roleplay at Vilma Gold, London; Faces, with Nora Schultz, dépendance, Brussels; Divider, Studio Voltaire, London.

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Group exhibitions include: Death, Volcano Extravaganza, Fiorucci Art Trust, Stromboli; Burning Down the House, 10th Gwangju Biennale with Anthea Hamilton; Public Private Paintings, Kunstmuseum Ann Zee, Oostende; The Dark Monarch, Tate St Ives, St Ives.

Byrne's works are in the collection of the Kistefos Museum, Norway; the Saatchi collection, Zabludowicz Collection, London and the collection of the Loewe Foundation, Madrid.