

Peter Wilson

Indian Summer and Thereafter

Opening: Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June, 2-7pm

27 June — 25 July 2020

Betts Project is pleased to reopen its gallery with *Indian Summer and Thereafter*, a solo exhibition of works by architect Peter Wilson. Marked by great formal sophistication and sensitivity, Wilson's practice is motivated by an interest in the imaginative and figurative possibilities of architecture, which are here presented through a selection over 80 works of drawings, paintings and models from a series of five projects created between 1983 and the present.

The Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) of the 1970s and 1980s has been described as the 'Indian Summer of Hand Drawing'. Peter Wilson explains: "We did not know at the time that a digital eclipse was around the corner. Now some years later some of us pencil holding dinosaurs are being visited by scholars of ancient technologies". This exhibition maps a few moments in the intervening years. It includes the Wilhaminer Pier project in Rotterdam (1994) which was the last hand drawing presentation by Bolles+Wilson, and which collapses three proposals: the Bridgwatcher's House and Quay, the Landing Square and the Luxor Theatre. Also on display are two projects from the 1984 Bridgebuilding series - The Academia Bridge for Venice which was a proposal for the 3rd Architecture Biennale (1985) directed and put forward by Aldo Rossi, and the Paris Pont des Arts produced at the time for the architecture publication *L'Ivres de Pierres*. Also in this production pan are drawn researches for the 2016 book 'Some Reasons for Travelling to Italy', published by the AA.

The most recent works on display include 44 objects from his series *Small World Theory* (2008-2019). These works focus less on the architecture of Bolles+Wilson and more on Wilson's private reveries - objects or bi-products accidentally brought into being by the hand of the architect. They are 'Counter-Factual Histories' reflecting his field of production, technologies and cultural anomalies endemic to the early years of the 21st century. They conjure the relations of singularities to multiplicity, a soft empiricism that insists on the aesthetic and textural character of representation (but not representation as 2D simulations which today exist in such overwhelming superfluity, claiming and numbing our perception). These objects are monads in the sense of Leibniz or Benjamin, tiny cells and small worlds, in total a taxonomy of scripted physical narratives.

The object titles are significant as they owe a certain debt to Laurence Sterne or Glen Baxter, e.g. 'Continental Drift and What to do About it'. Others are more specifically referenced, e.g. 'Freaky Suit Malevich', or pilfered directly from James Joyce's "A bad attack of Maggot it feels Like". While titles like 'Psychological Disturbances of the Neanderthaler' play on the lost in translation syndrome.

Small World Theory implied chains of correspondences, the wacky science of average path lengths for (social) networks, degrees of separation and the connecting of a maximum number of points. In the same way, random walks are expected in this exhibition.

Please see the Bolles+Wilson website for a full list of built projects: www.bolles-wilson.com

Peter Wilson is an Australian born, German based architect. He studied at the University of Melbourne, Australia, 1969-71, before attending the Architectural Association from 1972-74, and graduating with the Diploma Prize. He subsequently taught at the AA from 1974-88. In 1980 he set up his practice Bolles+Wilson with Julia Bolles-Wilson and relocated to Münster, Germany in 1989. Alongside design work, Peter Wilson has lectured and run studios worldwide, acting as Guest Professor for both the Kunsthochschule Weisensee and the Accademia di Architettura Mendrisio. He was a visiting professor from 2013 to 2014 at the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and an International Fellow of the RIBA since 2014. In 2009 he was awarded the President's Prize of the Australian Institute of Architects and in 2013 the Gold Medal of the Australian Institute of Architects.

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Opening Hours

Wednesday – Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday 12-5pm
or by appointment

About Betts Project

Betts Project is a London-based contemporary art gallery specialising in architecture, founded in 2013 by Marie Coulon. The concept behind Betts Project is to introduce both a specialist audience and wider public to new ways of discovering and thinking about architecture, through the exhibition and promotion of materials integral to architecture – largely drawings, but also models and other forms of representation. It aims to support and promote work by established and emerging international architects, as well as lesser known or overlooked practices still very much relevant to the contemporary discourse.

The gallery is also driven by the desire to introduce architectural objects as works of art. To do so, it organises high calibre exhibitions for new and established audiences and participates in art fairs, and thereby brings unique collectable works to the market at an affordable price.

Over the past years the exhibition programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as Denise Scott Brown, De Vylder Vink Taillieu architects, Florian Beigel and Philip Christou, Caruso St John, Alexander Brodsky, Lars Lerup, Tony Fretton, Fred Scott, Studio Mumbai, Richard Goodwin, Peter Märkli alongside artist Hans Josephsohn, Pier Vittorio Aureli, and OFFICEkgdvs with photographer Bas Princen.

To find out more visit: www.bettsproject.com and sign-up to the Betts Project newsletters.

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