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ANDREW BICK –
WHEN WE LOOK AT NOW...
von Bartha, Copenhagen
May 21 – July 9, 2022

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Von Bartha is pleased to present *WHEN WE LOOK AT NOW, GOING FORWARD, WE NEED TO MAXIMISE THAT* (21 May – 9 July 2022) a solo exhibition by London-based artist Andrew Bick in the gallery's Copenhagen space, built in the 19th century, located in the Carlsberg district.

The exhibition explores non-composition and the collapse of language as a parallel to the constructive and structured art that has formed the basis of Bick's research for the last fourteen years.

The artist's system of titles for his work has long reflected concrete poetry, humorous misuse of terminology and the inherent gap between word and image. The new series of works, in *WHEN WE LOOK AT NOW...* will exist simultaneously as both a 'farewell' to Bick's longstanding incorporation of the work of constructionist artist Gillian Wise (1936-2020) into his own work, whilst also looking forward positively through an act of remembrance.

To coincide with the opening of the exhibition, Bick will present a collaborative performance event with Jo Melvin (UAL Chelsea Professor of Contemporary Art and Feminisms), that will become a playful goodbye to the persona of Gillian Wise. Taking the form of a quoted grid Bick has borrowed from Wise's pages of the 1977 Systems exhibition catalogue at The Whitechapel Gallery London, the artist reprises the presence of Wise in the grid layout of all of his own paintings, prints and drawings since 2008. The performance will be presented as a call and response, blending Bick's account of visits to Wise's studio in Paris and London with a mix of reflections, echoes and half told stories. The performance will celebrate the intangible presence art is capable of giving, something that Wise understood acutely, as well as the fungible nature of language, and its ability to be eluded to even as it is used.

The exhibition and performance title for *WHEN WE LOOK AT NOW...* are taken from an academic research presentation given by a member of the Business School and echo the notions of unreliable language that are fundamental to the concept of the show. It suggests approximations of meaning, buzzwords, marketing-speak, in ways that flatten nuance and the richness of the conceptual play that language can deliver. Ultimately it lacks any concrete meaning. Gillian Wise, modernist, constructionist, plasticienne, would have hated such bagginess and wordage.

Playing on the fact von Bartha Copenhagen is located in a non-functioning lighthouse Bick is placing five cables on the outside of the building, with flags consisting of silver

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mylar foil such as is used in emergency blankets. Reminiscent of Tibetan Prayer Flags, the silver cables also act as a gentle echo to the foil lined room and protective screen hanging Gillian Wise used to shield her bedroom from the effects of Wifi.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Gallery Facts

Basel

Address: von Bartha, Kannenfeldplatz 6, 4056 Basel, Switzerland

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 2 - 6 pm, Sat 11 am - 4 pm or by appointment

Admission: Free

Copenhagen

Address: von Bartha Copenhagen, Pasteursvej 8, DK-1799 Copenhagen

Telephone: +45 31 66 86 96

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Friday 11 am - 5 pm, Sat 11 am - 3 pm or by appointment

Admission: Free

Website: www.vonbartha.com

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: [galleryvonbartha](https://www.facebook.com/galleryvonbartha)

Instagram: @vonbartha

About Andrew Bick

Andrew Bick (born 1963, Cheltenham) studied at Cheltenham College of Art, the University of Reading as well as the Chelsea School of Art and Design in London.

He is a lecturer at the Kingston University as well as at the University of Gloucestershire. He has given conference papers at ICA, TATE Modern, Leeds Art Gallery, Henry Moore Institute and the University of Gloucestershire and has written for publications including Art Monthly, the Brooklyn Rail, Kultureflash and Abstract Critical.

Recent major solo exhibitions include von Bartha, Basel (2012); Hales Gallery, London (2012), von Bartha, S-chanf (2013), and The Cornerstone Gallery at Liverpool Hope University (2015). He has also taken part in group exhibitions, including the Drawing Biennial, London (2013); Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven (2014); Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Penzance (2014); Platform A, Middlesbrough (2014); the Pizzuti Collection, Cleveland, Ohio (2014); Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich (2017) and The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (2017). In April 2018, Bick presented a public commission by Modus Operandi in London's Princes Arcade and was commissioned to design a gender neutral pocket square for Drakes Menswear, as well as exhibiting gate/grid/tree/(notes/on/concrete), Von Bartha, Basel, Switzerland and Concrete-Disco-Systems, Hales London, UK in 2019.

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About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists. As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus of Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and Copenhagen, a hub for innovative art, design and fashion, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at www.vonbartha.com/stories

For more information about artists in the von Bartha gallery programme, please visit: <https://www.vonbartha.com/artists>

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