

PRESS RELEASE

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Mark Titchner

Born in Luton in 1973, Mark Titchner graduated from the Central St Martin's College of Art and Design in 1995. His reputation was established by a series of mainly London-based exhibitions, including *City Racing (A Partial History)* at the ICA and *Playing Amongst the Ruins* at the Royal College of Art, both in 2001, *The Galleries Show* at the Royal Academy in 2002 and the British Council touring exhibition *Electric Earth* in 2003.

Mark Titchner's art explores the tensions between the different belief systems that inform society, be they religious, scientific or political. His sculptural installations are provocative hybrids that often combine new technologies with old techniques. For instance, *How To Change Behaviour (Tiny Masters Of The World Come Out)* 2006 uses a computer designed billboard alongside hand-chiselled quasi-magical contraptions. Titchner presents conflicting ideologies and outmoded ideas without mockery or cynicism, allowing the viewer to form their own conclusions. In so doing, his installation questions both our blind faith in science and our obedience to authority.

Titchner describes his art as 'a dialogue about how you receive thought and ideas'. His works investigate communication and perception. Found text is a constant ingredient. Messages scavenged from song lyrics, corporate creeds, philosophical treatises and political manifestos have been physically described and digitally scripted into the works. In a sculpture such as *Ergo Ergot* 2006 Titchner uses dizzying optical illusions and hypnotic animation to evoke an hallucinatory experience, emphasising the fragility of our senses and understanding.

Titchner was nominated for the 2006 Turner Prize for his solo exhibition at the Arnolfini in Bristol. This was based around a series of sculptural installations such as *How To Change Behaviour (Tiny Masters Of The World Come Out)* and *Ergo Ergot* in which Titchner uses hypnotic spinning discs, film loops and optical illusions to induce hallucinatory effects and challenge the viewer's perception and understanding.