

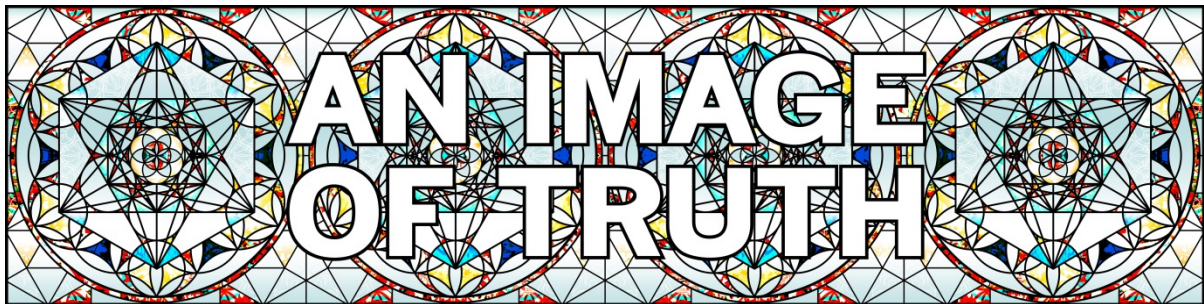


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## **Mark Titchner in The Gallery at Foyles**

First exhibition in new space curated by Futurecity

24 June – 17 August 2014



Mark Titchner 'An Image of Truth, 2014. Credit the Artist and Vilma Gold, London

Turner Prize nominee, Mark Titchner, has created a unique single artwork - a monolith to the poetic resonance of the word – for the first exhibition in The Gallery at Foyles bookshop on 107 Charing Cross Road, London, W2, the former home of Central Saint Martins.

Obliquely referencing the work of English painter, poet and printmaker William Blake (1757-1827), who was born in nearby Soho and spent time in the parish church of St Giles-in-the-Fields, known as the 'Poets Church' close to the modern junction of Charing cross Road and Tottenham Court Road, the Foyles piece features two dominant texts.

The text addresses the audience directly, yet simultaneously references awareness of its own presence through a 'call and response' structure to the text; the second phrase being a direct commentary on, or response to the first. The result is a monument to the word, an imposing mirrored monolith that questions both the transmission, and the audience reception and interpretation of the written text.

Titchner, an alumnus of Central Saint Martins, describes his art as 'a dialogue about how you receive thought and ideas'. Renowned for incorporating found text into his artworks, it would be hard to find a better candidate for the first show in The Gallery at Foyles. As a student in the 1990s, Titchner's painting studio used to exist on the same floor. His new site-specific artwork for Foyles directly relates to the rich cultural history of the building.

Futurecity have advised on the strategy for the new store's cultural hub since 2012 and have now been appointed lead curator and gallery director for the 1,300 sqft exhibition space on the fifth level of the bookshop. The ongoing programme will consist of a series of exhibitions for 2014–15,

concentrating on high-profile, contemporary art exhibitions, talks and events, which will draw inspiration from the bookshop's extraordinary literary, musical and cultural offer.

Mark Davy, Director of Futurecity, comments: "This 'gallery of the word' will be the first of its kind in London, promising exciting conversations and collaborations between artists, writers and other creative disciplines inside Foyles flagship store."

The first Gallery at Foyles was opened by founders of the business William and Gilbert Foyle in 1930. Since the old shop was refurbished, in 2004, the Gallery at Foyles has played host to a constant programme of exhibition and events in partnership with publishers, authors and illustrators.

For more information please visit: [www.foyles.co.uk](http://www.foyles.co.uk)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

#### Foyles

Foyles, National Bookseller of the Year 2013 and 2012, as well as Children's Bookseller of the Year 2012, has bookshops on Charing Cross Road, at the Southbank Centre, Westfield London, Westfield Stratford City and London Waterloo Station, as well as a branch at Quakers Friars, Cabot Circus, Bristol.

Designed by architects LDS as a 'bookshop for the 21st century' the new flagship Foyles at 107 Charing Cross Road houses a range of over 200,000 different titles on four miles (6.5km) of shelves. With 37,000 square feet of flexible retail space, spread across eight alternating levels around a full height central atrium, the retail layout allows for easy navigation and the serendipitous discovery of new books.

The Foyles website has millions of books and over 400,000 eBooks for sale, with live stock availability from all its bookshops and details of upcoming literary events and book signings. Foyles also sells nook ereaders and tablets.

[www.foyles.co.uk](http://www.foyles.co.uk)

#### Futurecity

Founded by Mark Davy in 2007, Futurecity is interested in developing collaborative relationships between artists and other disciplines, whether science, architecture or technology. Futurecity work with curators, galleries and clients from around the world, championing artists who are changing the way art is presented in an urban context. They curate major arts projects, devise cultural strategies, broker cultural partnerships and deliver art projects from inception to completion.

They are responsible for a large number of international multi-disciplinary art projects, including Mark Wallinger's 50 metre 'White Horse' part of a placemaking strategy for Ebbsfleet Valley UK; the recently unveiled 78 metre Richard Wilson sculpture 'Slipstream' for Heathrow's new Terminal 2: Queens Terminal and the 'Culture Line' public art

strategy for the Crossrail project in London, which will deliver art installations for 8 central stations awarded to 8 artists from 8 international galleries based in London including PACE, White Cube, Lisson, Maureen Paley, Victoria Miro, Gagosian and Sadie Coles HQ. [www.futurecity.co.uk](http://www.futurecity.co.uk) @futurecityblog

### Mark Titchner

Mark Titchner was born in Luton (1973), lives and works in London. He has exhibited in numerous national and international group exhibitions including *52nd Venice Biennale* in 2007 and the *British Art Show* in 2006. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2006 and was Artist in Residence at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto in 2012. He is represented by Vilma Gold, London.

Working across a number of media including digital print, wall drawing, video, sculpture and installation, Mark Titchner explores systems of belief; both secular and spiritual, often focusing on the marginalized, discredited or forgotten ideologies and objects we place our faith in. Employing the impersonal language of advertising in the public realm, ranging from the quasi-mysticism of corporate mission statements to the maxims of revolutionary socialism, his work exhorts us to believe in it.

Drawing predominantly from texts retrieved from a bewildering range of literary sources; prog rock lyrics, science fiction novels, club flyers, corporate creeds, philosophical treatises and political manifestos, Titchner isolates the word from its original context, before physically describing and digitally scripting it into new contexts.