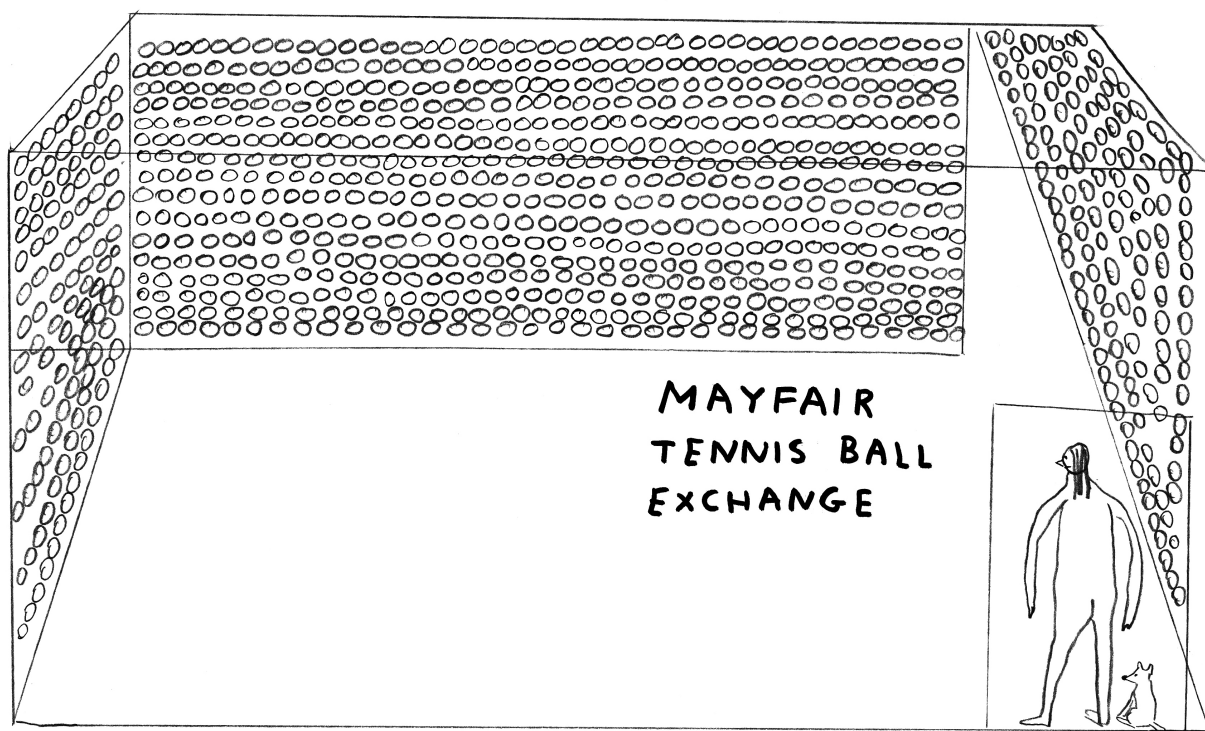


Stephen Friedman Gallery



David Shrigley: MAYFAIR TENNIS BALL EXCHANGE

19 November 2021–8 January 2022

Private View: 18 November, 6–8pm

Gallery Hours

Tuesday to Saturday, 11am–5pm

Stephen Friedman Gallery is pleased to present **David Shrigley's** eighth solo exhibition at the gallery, marking a long and fruitful collaboration over two decades. The British artist expands his conceptual practice with a new body of work comprising an interactive installation, large-scale neon and clock. A selection of works on paper will also be released online during the show. Characteristically deadpan in their humour, these quick-witted drawings satirise everyday occurrences and conversations.

The evolving installation 'Mayfair Tennis Ball Exchange' transforms the two spaces of Gallery 1. Visitors are invited to bring an old ball to swap with a new one from the numerous shelves that line the walls. Gradually the rows of yellow spheres are replaced with misshapen and discoloured forms that represent the joy of trade. Discussing the origins of this work, Shrigley explains: "My dog likes tennis balls. I throw them and she chases them. [Her interest is] more about exchange than possession."

Toying with notions of commerce and community, the installation interrupts expectations of a gallery context. Participants are rewarded with a pin badge decorated with its title, in Shrigley's distinctive handwriting. This text also appears in the gallery window in green neon letters that amplify the feel of a high street shopfront. Co-opting the aesthetic of a sign or advertisement, the ambiguous string of words undermines its informative format with mischievous humour.

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Social Media

Facebook: /Stephen-Friedman-Gallery

Instagram: @stephenfriedmangallery

Twitter: @SFGalleryLondon

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The disruption to formal hierarchies embodied by the works in Gallery 1 shifts in the second space. A large-scale digital clock in the practical style of those at train stations or airports is visible from the street, mounted on the back wall. Although local time is set correctly, the display is illegibly out of focus. Whilst this useless object can be appreciated for its pure absurdity, it also hints at a slippage between personal experience and social consensus. Sparked by the artist's own diminishing eyesight, the work speaks to those excluded from everyday conventions.

The exhibition is also accompanied by a film narrated by Shrigley, which documents the installation of works in the gallery.

About the artist

David Shrigley was born in 1968 in Macclesfield, UK. He lives and works in Brighton and Devon, UK.

Though widely recognised for his distinctive drawing style, Shrigley's practice spans an extensive range of media including sculpture, large-scale installation, animation, painting, photography and music. The artist consistently seeks to widen his audience by operating outside the gallery sphere, including producing artist publications and creating collaborative music projects.

Shrigley was a Turner Prize nominee in 2013, following his major mid-career retrospective at the Hayward Gallery, London titled 'Brain Activity'. In September 2016, his monumental sculpture 'Really Good' was unveiled in Trafalgar Square, London for the Fourth Plinth Commission. From 2015 to 2018 the British Council-organised exhibition 'Lose Your Mind' travelled to six venues including Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China; Storage by Hyundai Card in Seoul, Korea and Instituto-Cultural-Cabañas in Guadalajara, Mexico. In January 2020 Shrigley was awarded the decoration of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire or OBE.

His works are included in prominent collections internationally, including Museum of Modern Art, New York; Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois; Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany; Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark; Thyssen-Bornemisza Contemporary Art Foundation, Vienna, Austria; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Scotland; Tate, London, England; British Council, London, England and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

About Stephen Friedman Gallery

Stephen Friedman Gallery represents exceptional emerging and mid-career artists from around the world. Since its inauguration in 1995, the gallery has been based in Mayfair on Old Burlington Street. The gallery now has three spaces in which it hosts solo and group exhibitions throughout the year. Additional works can be viewed by appointment in private rooms and office spaces. There is also a facility to exhibit outdoor sculpture in a landscaped private garden.