

# Phillip King

## From metal to paper



FLOWERS  
21 Cork Street  
London W1S 3LZ

14 July - 7 August 2010  
Private View Tuesday 13 July 6 - 8pm

*Hold it son*, 2010, Monotype, 75.5 x 57 cm / 29¾ x 22½ in

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

*Nearly all the works on view here began life as a flat sheet of metal. In the case of two of the small sculptures, the shapes were drawn onto a single sheet, then cut and shaped without the need to add other parts. Colour was applied freely in order to articulate and develop a story-line inspired by the metallic shapes.*

*The works on paper similarly began life with a metal plate, on which I drew and painted as if it was a sheet of paper. When working in plaster or clay the sculptor has to imagine what the work would look like in bronze, so too was I required, during the application of the paint, to conceptualise what the effect would be when the shiny metal background became paper.*

*There is magic and freedom in this process and I aimed to turn the unexpected to my advantage, so that when pressure was applied to the wet paint – as the paper was squeezed through the rollers – it resulted in a spontaneous effect that turned dross into gold.*

*Unlike working directly on paper, in this process colours can be applied and removed, if necessary in an instant. Boldness is more often rewarded than careful application; hand or finger movements can be turned instantly into marks and the imagination is easily fired into action. Once through the press it is possible to add and enhance but not to reduce or remove. There is the danger of getting drunk on colour as so much of it can be applied so quickly.*

*At the end of a working day the whole world outside the studio has become a riot of colours, and I walk home in a glorious daze.*

Phillip King, 2010

Phillip King was born in Tunis in 1934. He studied modern languages at Christ's College, Cambridge (1954-57), and sculpture at St Martin's School of Art (1957-58) where Anthony Caro was teaching at the time. Following his studies, he spent a year working as an assistant to Henry Moore and teaching at St Martin's. A teacher throughout his career, King was Professor of Sculpture at the Royal College of Art (1980-90) and at the Royal Academy Schools (1990-99). Among other appointments he was a Trustee of the Tate Gallery (1967-69). King was awarded the CBE in 1974, and was made a Royal Academician and Professor Emeritus at the Royal College of Art in 1990. In 1999 he was elected President of the Royal Academy, a post which he held until 2004. In 2010, King was a recipient of the International Sculpture Center's Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award. This, his first solo exhibition with Flowers, anticipates a large-scale survey show at the gallery in 2011.

For more information contact Ellie Harrison-Read on +44 (0)20 7920 7777 or email [ellie@flowersgalleries.com](mailto:ellie@flowersgalleries.com)

[www.flowersgalleries.com](http://www.flowersgalleries.com)