

ROB TUFNELL

AT

**83 PAGE STREET
LONDON SW1P 4HA**

**CHRISTOPHER LOGUE
POSTER POEMS**

30 SEPTEMBER - 7 NOVEMBER 2015

With Derek Boshier, Ian Cameron, Steven Claydon, Caroline Coon, Michael English, Germano Facetti, Robin Fior, Scott King, Tom Salter, John Sankey, Colin Self, Posy Simmonds, Stephen Sutcliffe, Trevor Wayman & Wu Zhen

Poet Christopher Logue produced his first 'poster poem', 'To My Fellow Artists', with the designer Germano Facetti in 1958. Influenced by Berthold Brecht's 'Rat an die bildenden Künstler, das Schicksal ihrer Kunstwerke in den kommenden Kriegen betreffend', 1937, Logue's 'anti-nuclear lobby poem' was first published in the New Statesmen and Nation. He was invited by Lindsay Anderson to recite it, between films, at the second Free Cinema Festival at the National Film Theatre in London. Inspired by its reception he determined to put it into wider circulation by reproducing it on a poster and approached Facetti. Anderson and Logue distributed the resulting posters, displaying them in bookshops and cafes and a pile was left in the lobby of the Royal Court theatre.

Facetti (who went on to be the Art Director of Penguin books) introduced Logue to artists at the Royal College of Art. At the Establishment Club he met and befriended painters Derek Boshier (with whom he produced three posters) and Pauline Boty (who, after her death, became the subject of another). Further posters resulting from collaborations with artists include 'Electric Chair', 1968, with Colin Self. Logue also worked with Robin Fior, then the designer of Tariq Ali's newspaper 'Black Dwarf'. Together they produced two versions of 'Smash Capital Now', 1968 - a centerfold within the July 1968 edition of the newspaper as well as a poster. In the same year Logue worked with psychedelic poster designer Michael English (one half of 'Hapshash and the Coloured Coat') on 'Apollinaire Said' for the ICA's Apollinaire celebration. Tom Salter, proprietor of the legendary Gear fashion boutique on Carnaby Street, published a number of posters for Logue, selling them from his shop. He was also responsible for the design of 'Kiss Kiss', 1968 that can be seen fleetingly in the lobby of the Korova Milk Bar in Stanley Kubrick's 1971 film 'A Clockwork Orange'.

Logue is often credited with inventing 'the poster poem' a genre long since hijacked with mawkish platitudes and religious rhetoric. His posters were instead variously provocative, profound and funny. The exhibition features all of the posters listed in his bibliography (produced by George Ramsden in 1997) including 'Selene's Anthem', 1969, which was printed at Brighton Polytechnic but not distributed owing to a proliferation of mistakes. Also included are three new prints by friends and acquaintances of Logue: Steven Claydon, Caroline Coon and Posy Simmonds alongside a new video by Stephen Sutcliffe that incorporates the last audio recording of the poet reciting his work.

'Logue's Homer, Collected War Music' will be published in November by Faber and Faber.

Christopher Logue (1926 – 2011) wrote numerous volumes of poetry as well as children's books, plays and screenplays including Ken Russell's 'Savage Messiah', 1972. His poems were set to jazz music and another was sung by Donovan (and then by Joan Baez). He acted in films and on television appearing in Ken Russell's film 'The Devils', 1971 (where he was cast as Cardinal Richelieu) and Terry Gilliam's 'Jabberwocky', 1977. In 1951 he co-founded, with Alexander Trocchi, the Parisian literary journal, 'Merlin' and for many years he was the editor of 'Private Eye's' 'True Stories' and 'Pseuds Corner' columns. He also briefly wrote historical comic strips for the children's weekly: 'Girl' and served two prison terms (in Palestine in the 1940s and London in the 1960s). He is however most recognised for his versions of Homer's 'Iliad' published in five volumes: 'War Music', 1981; 'Kings', 1991; 'The Husbands', 1994; 'All Day Permanent Red', 2003 and 'Cold Calls', 2005.

For images and further information about this exhibition please contact mail@robtufnell.com

Gallery open Thursday to Saturday, 12 – 6 pm; Opening reception Wednesday 30th September, 6 – 9 pm