

**ROB TUFNELL**

**AT**

**83 PAGE STREET  
LONDON SW1P 4HA**

**DAVID ROBILIARD  
PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND POEMS.  
26 SEPTEMBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2013**

Rob Tufnell presents paintings, drawings, editioned poetry and publications by David Robilliard (1952 - 1988).

David Robilliard was one of the first artists to colonise London's Shoreditch in the late 1970s when he moved into fellow artist Andrew Heard's studio close to Old Street underground station. They were attracted to the area by empty industrial spaces and the proximity of Gilbert and George. Robilliard made a fleeting appearance as an 'angry young man' in the film 'The World of Gilbert and George' (1981) before working for them, procuring models for their photographs. His work shared some of the dichotomies of theirs but took a very different form – hand drawn and written, rather than photographed and printed. It was compared favourably to that of Jean Cocteau but he rejected any relation to 'that dead French artist' - his work was deliberately cruder.

In his short life he produced 61 paintings, a few hundred drawings and eight volumes of poetry. He also issued regular missives – poems printed onto postcards, published by Paul Conran and James Birch that were distributed in envelopes that declared: 'Life isn't Good It's Excellent'. His poetry was also performed on stage by Rosemary Turner and Leo Burley as The Robilliards. Gilbert and George wrote of him: 'the new master of the modern person. Looking, thinking, feeling, seeing, bitching – he brilliantly encapsulates the "Existens" spirit of our time.'

Robilliard died from an AIDS related illness on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1988. Although self-taught his work was embraced by collectors, critics and curators and was recognised with retrospective exhibitions at the Royal Festival Hall, London in 1992 and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam in 1993.

For further information and images please contact [mail@robtufnell.com](mailto:mail@robtufnell.com)

Gallery open Thursday to Saturday, 12 – 6 pm

Opening Wednesday 25th September, 6 – 9 pm