

ROB TUFNELL

AT

**1 SUTTON LANE
LONDON EC1M 5PU**



23 APRIL – 28 MAY 2011

Derek Boshier, Horace Brodzky, Sophie Brzeska, Steven Claydon, Keith Coventry, Ruth Ewan, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Anthea Hamilton, Derek Jarman, Scott King, Mark Leckey, Christopher Logue, Ella McCartney, Eduardo Paolozzi, Ezra Pound, Mary Richardson, William Roberts, Karin Ruggaber, Ken Russell, Daniel Silver, Stephen Sutcliffe, Rob Upritchard, Edward Wadsworth, Alfred Wolmark, Bill Woodrow

Rob Tufnell presents an exhibition, curated with Michelle Cotton, of sculpture, print, film, video, objects and ephemera dating from 1913 to the present day.

'Savage Messiah' is premised by a series of accounts of the life of artist Henri Gaudier-Brzeska (1891 – 1915) and takes its title from two of these: a 1931 book of personal correspondence between the artist and Sophie Brzeska edited by H.S. Ede and, more significantly, the 1972 biopic directed by Ken Russell. The screenplay of Russell's film was written by the poet Christopher Logue and was art directed by Derek Jarman who was assisted on property and sets by a number of artists including Bill Woodrow. These treatments of Gaudier Brzeska's life characterise him as a self-styled mouthpiece for 'Vorticism' (or 'English Cubism') with its apparently incongruous influences from 'primitive' art and modern technology.

The exhibition, bringing together art and literature made on the eve of the First World War and from more recent years, can be seen to collapse conventional art histories (that look back to a Classical tradition) to instead look simultaneously onto understandings of the prehistoric and postmodern to explore a timeless engagement with what Ezra Pound termed the VORTEX.

Opening Reception, Saturday 23 April, 7 – 9pm
Exhibition open 12 – 6pm, Wednesday – Saturday and by appointment
For further information please contact mail@robtufnell.com

Michelle Cotton is the Senior Curator at Firstsite, Colchester. Her exhibition 'Design Research Unit: 1947–72' currently at Tate St Ives, is touring to Nottingham Trent University and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee.