

ROB TUFNELL

AT

**83 PAGE STREET
LONDON SW1P 4HA**

'POTTERIES THINKBELT'

12 JUNE – 18 JULY 2015

Aaron Angell, Ruth Ewan, Alex Frost, Tom Humphreys, Eduardo Paolozzi and works from the Troy Town Art Pottery by Mathew Peers and Matthew Smith

In 1964, the architect, Cedric Price began work on a proposal to redevelop the North Staffordshire Potteries. Towns such as Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme Burslem and Hanley had been centres for the industrial production of ceramics but had fallen into decline in the face of foreign competition. The region was long famed for artisanal ceramics but in the late 18th century Josiah Wedgwood and Enoch Wood engaged new technologies to achieve an exponential increase in production to build very large, successful companies. One of James Watt's first pioneering steam engines was used to crush rock, mix clay, and turn potter's wheels. And the first train, George Stephenson's 'Rocket', was used to transfer raw materials across the Potteries. Price looked back to such achievements in the past in the hope of revitalising the region in the future. He proposed using the extensive and neglected railway network as an expanded, mobile university campus. Train carriages were to become mobile laboratories with lecture theaters shuttling between hubs. The campus would thus cover over 100 square miles to educate 22,000 students. Price wanted to break universities away from what he perceived as "medieval castles with power points, located in gentlemanly seclusion" to instead promote applied science and technologies.

Price's unrealised proposal provides a notional framework for an exhibition that brings together disparate artworks that are variously the product of an arch studio pottery or adapt industrially produced ceramics and /or engage with technology, pedagogical systems and railway networks.

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

Gallery open Thursday to Saturday, 12 – 6 pm
Opening Thursday 11th June , 6 – 9 pm