



**Ikon Gallery**

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS  
0121 248 0708 / [www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org)  
Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 528892

## Ikon Icons

19 February 2014 – 25 January 2015

*Ikon Icons* sees the return to Ikon of five key British artists from an exhibition programme that has extended over five decades. A presentation of work by each takes place, consecutively, throughout 2014 in Ikon's Tower Room.

**John Salt** was the first artist to have an exhibition at Ikon, in April 1965, on the cusp of his embrace of photorealism, whilst **Ian Emes'** 1973 film animation heralded the start of a brilliant career, amongst other things visualising the music of Pink Floyd. In 1988 **Cornelia Parker** exhibited her seminal work *Thirty Pieces of Silver* and ten years later likewise **Yinka Shonibare's** combination of found objects and African fabric was a defining moment. The new millennium was ushered in by an ambitious programme that included a survey of new work by **Julian Opie**.

The series is a major component of *Ikon 50*, the programme of exhibition and events celebrating Ikon's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **John Salt**

**19 February – 21 April 2014**

A selection of work by John Salt, the first artist ever to exhibit at Ikon, it includes paintings, prints and sculpture made before he embarked on an artistic career both in the US and the UK that saw him acknowledged internationally as a thorough-going Photorealist. They reflect to some extent a pop sensibility, a subtle sense of humour and an abiding interest in cars.

### **Ian Emes**

**30 April – 22 June 2014**

Ian Emes shows his masterpiece *French Windows* (1972), dating from his final year as a student at Birmingham Polytechnic Art and Design Centre. It is a visualisation of *One of These Days*, a track from Pink Floyd's recently released *Meddle* album. An extraordinary melange of pop and surrealism, animated ballet dancers move through three dimensions that stream with architectural geometry and lattice arrangements of clocks, window frames and boxes.

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**Cornelia Parker****2 July – 31 August 2014**

In 1988 Ikon commissioned Cornelia Parker to make *30 Pieces of Silver*, a major work in her early career now in the collection of Tate. She returns to Ikon to show a new related work comprising a suspended circle of squashed silverware. A kind of critical response to monumental floor-based sculpture, it also characteristically conflates ideas of preciousness and perceived cultural value with traces of a traumatic event.

**Yinka Shonibare****10 September – 9 November 2014**

Yinka Shonibare's exhibition at Ikon in 1999 was seminal. We now show *Five Under Garments and Much More* (1995), an early suspended installation that prefigures the artist's mannequin works. Each piece mimics the structured corsetry of period noble dress but the dramatically enlarged proportions and exuberant textiles suggest a provocative de-robing of social and class constructions.

**Julian Opie****19 November 2014 – 25 January 2015**

The installation of Julian Opie's high-rise building sculptures on the first floor of Ikon Gallery in 2001 coincided with 9/11. The modernist aesthetic they embody and their smart neatness as models is now informed by memories of a day that dramatically changed the world. The 'less is more' efficiency they suggest, symbolic of a society that functions in an orderly way, can no longer be seen with innocence. A number of these architectural pieces now rise up in Ikon's Tower Room.

**Ends.****Note to Editors:**

1. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
2. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
3. For more information, high-res images and to arrange an interview with the curator please contact Helen Stallard on 0774 033 9604 or email [h.stallard@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:h.stallard@ikon-gallery.org)