

# IKON

*Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham b1 2hs*  
*tel. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / fax. +44 (0) 121 248 0709*  
*website. [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)*  
*Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892*

## *Press Release*

# **Jürgen Partenheimer** ***Discontinuity, Paradox & Precision*** **Ikon Gallery and Offsite** **2 April – 18 May 2008**

Ikon presents a major solo exhibition by the internationally acclaimed German artist Jürgen Partenheimer, his first in the UK, comprising new and recent painting, works on paper and sculpture, revealing the interconnectivity of his essentially Modernist practice.

Partenheimer's work is rooted in abstraction across many forms, expressing connections between art, poetry, music and literature, and importantly their place in our life. His is a poetically philosophical investigation, which approaches its subject matter at the very point of transition between reality and imagination. In drawings and paintings of visual fragility, form and colour establish a lyric sensibility, challenging our traditional interpretations of time and space. The physical presence of his paintings seems caught at the point of transient dissolution and concentration. Sculptures and ceramic work too retain this flexibility challenging our perceptual understanding. They contain echoes of functional objects; yet remain elusive in their specificity.

An additional feature of the exhibition will be a new musical piece commissioned from the celebrated post-minimalist composer Kevin Volans. Invited by the artist to create a new composition in response to his work, the music will be elaborated physically by speakers integrated into linear wooden sculptures made by Partenheimer. As the artist's work relates to the condition of music in an abstract sense of perception, so Volans attempts to embody musically formal and emotive qualities and images possible in painting, sculpture and work on paper as seen in Partenheimer's practice.

Premiere live performances by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group will also take place at Ikon. Three ensembles of musicians mirroring Partenheimer's approach and that of the interconnected galleries will create physical displacement providing exciting and surprising opportunities within the overall musical structure.

Partenheimer's work will also be presented off-site at one of Birmingham's most historic landmarks, Perrott's Folly. Built in 1758 by John Perrott and originally intended as an eccentric entertainment, this structure provided the impetus for JRR Tolkien's *Two Towers*. For Partenheimer, the tower operates as 'axis mundi', a vertical extension between heaven and earth, and also as a consideration of architecture as sculpture. By climbing the spiral staircase, viewers will move through six rooms making up this new commission, each space containing a single work.

A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition with texts by Christoph Schreier, Kevin Volans, Nigel Prince and a conversation between Jürgen Partenheimer, Konstantinos Karachalios and Laymert Garcia dos Santos.

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The exhibition is developed in collaboration with Kunstmuseum Bonn. The Kevin Volans composition is co-commissioned with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and Kunstmuseum Bonn. Birmingham Contemporary Music Group acknowledge financial assistance through its Sound Investment Scheme.

1. Press Preview, Tuesday 1 April, 12-8pm
2. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
3. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Birmingham City Council and Arts Council West Midlands.
4. For more information, images and to arrange an interview with the artist please contact Jigisha Patel PR and Press Manager on 0121 248 0708 or email [j.patel@ikon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:j.patel@ikon-gallery.co.uk)