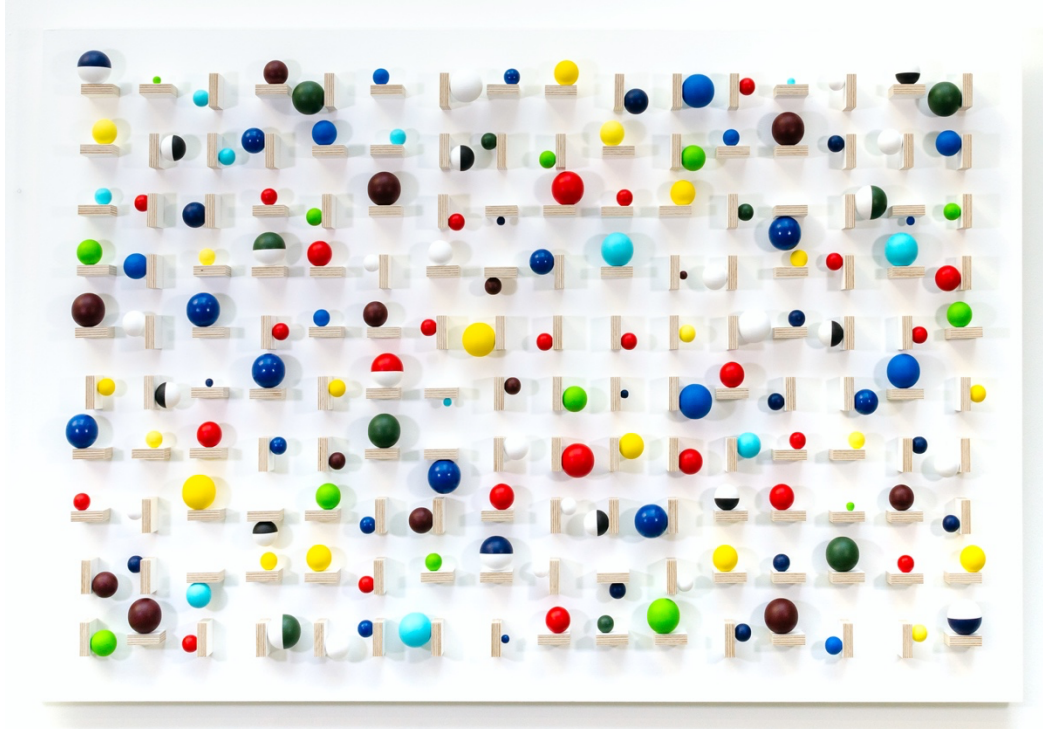


## PRESS RELEASE

***Brave New World* – A solo exhibition of new works by Stuart Hartley at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock, from 19 May – 14 June 2021. Private View 20 May**



Zuleika Gallery is delighted to present *Brave New World* a solo exhibition of new work by British contemporary artist, Stuart Hartley (b. 1970) from 19 May – 14 June 2021 at Zuleika Gallery, Woodstock. Known for fusing painting and sculpture, Hartley's practice lies in the isolation of a moment; an encounter or decision taken that breaks up the routine structure of daily life. This exhibition will present Hartley's 3-dimensional works from his *Event & Incident* and *Pathways* series, alongside a new series of watercolours on paper produced in 2021.

Stuart Hartley's *Event & Incident* works consider the notion of collective moments and experiences we accumulate in life and use when we are confronted with a choice or decision. The works create a colourful and playful visual dance on an initial encounter, but it is with further exploration that the ideas around singular moments start to evolve. Hartley uses the first ten words of famous novels, including Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World', and poems including William Wordsworth's 'Upon Westminster Bridge', then randomly scatters the letters around the work, partially hidden on the balls, reducing their significance to single letters and emphasising the need for the author's personal history to interact with them, allowing the creative moment to happen. It is within this moment that the physical and visual play dissipates, and the work shifts from the 'here and now' into an encounter with the moment just prior to creation.

Hartley's *Pathway* works begin with an overall sense of geometric form and a presence of oneness in the totality of its whiteness and familiar shape. Carved pathways interrupt these forms, creating new shapes and places, highlighted through the use of reflected colour. Brightly coloured balls seem to pulsate with movement and activity through these spaces resulting in a sense of structure on both an atomic and a city level. It is when viewing these works with the scale of a city in mind that a sense of self and our placement within the collection of constructions we have made to exist within, starts to

emerge.

For this exhibition, Hartley has produced a new series of *Pathway* works on paper in a joyful exploration around a notion of incident. Through the interruption of the geometric shape the artist uses the fluidity of the watercolour to indicate activity, movement and interaction. A break in the norm and a catalyst.

Hartley says, *'I like to think of these works in terms of gossip or scandal. It has a life of its own once it happens and it's rarely fully under control'*.

For more information visit [zuleikagallery.com](http://zuleikagallery.com)

ENDS

Image: *Event 5, Brave New World* (Aldous Huxley), 2021, 78 cm x 120 cm x 10 cm, Acrylic on Birch ply and beech wood.

### About Stuart Hartley

Born in 1970, St Helen's, England, Stuart Hartley is a visual artist who lives and works in London. Hartley gained a BA Fine Art (1st Class Hons) at Manchester Metropolitan University (2002-5) and an MA in Fine Art at The Slade School of Fine Art, UCL London (2005-7). Selected collections and commissions include: 1 London Bridge, 100 New Oxford Street, London; 33 Gracechurch Street, London; Coutts, London, Isle of Man & Jersey; Columbus Capital, London; Dryland, London, Gruss - Hong Kong; Trowers & Hamlin's, London, Bruntwood, Manchester; Portland Estates, London; Baker/Botts, London; Royal Bank of Scotland, Bishops Gate; Gruss, London; London; Advent, Luxembourg & London; Miller, London; 64 Knightsbridge, London; Bassadone, France; TDR Finance, London; Portland Estates, London; TT International, London; Stephenson/Bell Architects, Manchester; DFDS, London; Advent, London.

### About Zuleika Gallery

Zuleika Gallery was founded in Oxford in 2015 by Lizzie Collins and focuses on Contemporary and Modern British Art, with locations based in Woodstock, Oxfordshire and also in St James's in London. Artists represented by the gallery include Trevor Sutton, Manijeh Yadegar, Andy Barker, Rachel Gracey, Claudia Clare and Frances Aviva Blane. Lizzie Collins is a History of Art graduate of UCL, and a postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. Lizzie was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. In 2016 Lizzie set up the art programme for Saïd Business School, University of Oxford where she has curated exhibitions by Nigel Hall RA, Nicola Green and Alice Kettle. Hannah Payne joined Zuleika Gallery as Senior Director in 2020 following a career background of 20 years at leading institutions and art businesses including Blenheim Palace, Royal Academy of Arts, and Olympia International Art & Antiques Fairs. Hannah has directed art programmes at leading art sector businesses in London developing exhibitions with emerging and mid-career artists, as well as consulting for contemporary art galleries. Hannah is on the Advisory Board of University of the Arts London's *Made in Arts London*.

For further information, price list, or images please contact [info@zuleikagallery.com](mailto:info@zuleikagallery.com) or visit [www.zuleikagallery.com](http://www.zuleikagallery.com)

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