

James Irwin

*Hopeless Communication*

24/09/11 – 22/10/11

For *Hopeless Communication* James Irwin presents a series of sculptures exploring how form and function imbue an object with meaning. Addressing the idea that objects can be carriers or containers for ideas – acting as vehicles for reintroducing a sense of real space in an age of remote real-time communication and mobile technologies – Irwin asks the question: In a world of technological entanglement, is it possible to recover a sense of contentment within the here and now?

*Hopeless Communication* stems from Irwin's interest in surveillance and the technologies that either enable or restrict it. The idea that people are somehow controlled by an invisible and ubiquitous wireless network is central to the work presented.

This notion of a constant flow of Wi-Fi communication and its ominous potential has influenced pieces such as *343,000 cubic centimeters of isolated space* in which Irwin has used radar-absorbent material and anodised aluminium to create a Wi-Fi 'cold spot' – a box of space that the internet cannot penetrate. Also concerned with the notion of sinister technologies is the geometric and mute *Hopeless Diamond*. The piece is a scale model of the original *Hopeless Diamond*, a three-dimensional geometric form designed to be undetectable to enemy radar. Using this geometry the first stealth fighter jet, the F117a, was designed and built.

*Open to Communication* hangs between the gallery space and the window and operates as a signal to the audience, inviting them to enter into the exhibition. Split horizontally into two colours – half blue, half yellow – it represents The Kilo Flag from The International Code of Symbols meaning, "I am ready to communicate". The works exhibited are determined by the science of trying to communicate theoretical ideas through three-dimensional forms. In this sense their form is incidental, or secondary, as the objects' meaning takes precedence. The forth work *Untitled (vacuum contained within glass sphere)* exemplifies this; suspended at head height in the middle of the gallery, the work occupies the same volume as that of an average sized human brain.

*Hopeless Communication* invites its audience to consider space – both personal and physical – as well as the science and subtleties of communication. The works on show are as much about form and function as they are about the theories and ideas that have conditioned them.

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James Irwin studied Fine Art at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne before completing a Masters in Computational Studio Arts at Goldsmith's College in 2010. He was awarded the 2009/2010 Professional Preparation Masters Scheme by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and has participated in a number of group exhibitions since 2005 in London, Liverpool, Brighton and Newcastle.

*Hopeless Communication* runs from 24/09/11 – 22/10/11 and is open Saturdays 12-6pm or by appointment.