

Christian Newby

*Party Time*

13/10/14 - 07/11/14

SIB is pleased to present *Party Time* by American artist Christian Newby.

For this inaugural exhibition at POND, Christian Newby has created two new banner works that are installed at the entrance to the space – a former Victorian warehouse that is now a bar and restaurant. Aiming to riff on an existing dramatic and narrative infrastructure, *Party Time* has taken as its starting point a short satirical play of the same name by Hackney playwright Harold Pinter. The play – based in the hermetically affluent milieu of a suave party – addresses both bourgeois comfort and civil liberties. Its casual trickle of comments dropped by each character reveals a callous irreverence to the conflicts occurring outside of the actions of the play's comfortable domestic setting.

Newby's works for SIB both re-imagine the narrative's graphic interpretations and attempt to amplify any satirical elements as a further connotative and abbreviated platform. They combine a number of different methods to achieve the final image. Both are silkscreen prints on fabric; the first is an image of a set design model, complete with miniature chairs and backdrop; the second work is of a figure, seemingly tumbling in space whilst holding on to a martini glass. The primal revelry of the image exists conscious of the environment in which it now hangs – in a social space, which in its own right is intended for leisure and drinking. Both banners are lit with a nod toward their theatrical origins, as well as to playing in to the existing ambience of the space.

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Seeking to emphasise the connotative properties beyond an image's surface qualities, Christian Newby takes both formal and decorative objects and images and distorts, or reconfigures, their temporal properties. Christian Newby was born in Virginia Beach, USA. He lives and works in London.

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