

Simon Bedwell
NO

26th November to 18th December 2016

For the exhibition **NO** Simon Bedwell will show
clay sculpture, magazine-page paintings
and self-portrait lamps.

Recent works in clay are coil-pots of segmented forms: intestinal columns, buckling under their own weight, each a pot and body at once, over-extended and made unwieldy. Gas-fired consecutively, bases are returned to the kiln supporting raw counterparts, forming approximate assemblages (twin-cysts), which shrink during firing to - only roughly - fit together.

*

These clay bodies can take on shapes reminiscent of designer furniture, like the cylinders and cones of Sottsass; or just as likely, of Bellmer and *The Human Centipede*. Their extremities end in flutes or spouts; while holes or lesions form gnashing teeth or anus-like orifices. The clay surfaces, unevenly fired, carry rainbow blemishes and staining. They remain organic-looking, with natural gradation between clay types, reminiscent of smokey stains on cooking pots, or the discolouration of ageing bodies.

*

The paintings are billboard sized sheets comprising joined, magazine pages, spray painted black. Text and imagery erased, the paper takes on a shiny creased finish like refuse sacks. In places, flares of colour like alien sunsets or planetary eruptions show through the black gloss.

*

These works, particularly the vessels, are deliberately unplanned, colluding with the Id and its base urges, or the reflexes of the nervous system (Bacon says it is possible to be 'cerebrally pessimistic but *nervously* optimistic'). Then there is also the sticky reckoning of the clay, its haphazard cremation conflating surfaces with their meanings, slumping and cracking at 1000C. Work by a potter in reveries, in coils of compulsive repetition, unable to plan, not knowing when or how to stop building the things: then meeting, every time, the same lazy panic of how to finish.

* * *

Piper Keys, 1st Floor, Ravensbourne Wharf
Norman Road, London, SE10 9QZ

12noon to 6pm, Friday to Sunday

info@piperkeys.com
www.piperkeys.com

Piper Keys is supported using public funding by
the National Lottery through Arts Council England