

Piper Keys Exhibitions

Mathis Gasser *From Mast to Mast*

2nd to 24th July
Opening view: Friday 1st July, 6 to 9pm

The dreamer is still asleep
The dreamer is still asleep
He's inventing landscapes in their magnetic field¹

For his exhibition *From Mast to Mast*, Mathis Gasser will show paintings and sculptures as part of a new project developed around examples of structures and the idea of re-structuring.

The exhibition will include a series of paintings in which Gasser appropriates material from two sources: the Marshall Plan² poster competition for European artists, and sci-fi film imagery. Found designs are converted into a painterly shorthand, showing scenes that range from a close-up of a crane pulley to an alien mega-structure. Across the series industrial or mechanical structures are set across open sky or lightless space, in a colour palette of blues, greys and black. Recognisable industry is juxtaposed with fantasy technology.

In a second group of works, sculptural forms have been modelled in plaster and perspex. Gasser assembles e-Bay purchases, including model spacecraft, into a single plaster covered object, which is then fused to planes of transparent perspex. Model ships, types of joints and hooks, and replica tree blossom are embalmed in plaster, suggesting a single almost-organic surface.

A publication comprising reproductions of collages accompanies the exhibition. In this booklet collages made alongside the exhibited works, proceed in a systematic fashion to compare historic technology with scenes of imagined extra-terrestrial life. Two or more found images, from magazines or books are overlapped, as if to connect technologies from these respectively physical and mental realms.

The image of an early sailing ship is associated with voyages of discovery, on which explorers lived-out sci-fi narratives. They were transported by a collective effort, on ships constructed by numerous forgotten individuals. The explorer's individual motivation was given a navigational energy by the imaginings of a population. From these social forces, with their speculative and elusive ambitions, horizons are expanded. In the same way future exploration and the opening up of human life to new possibilities will be generated, not by a chosen few, but a restless many.

Masts are observed as way markers, way markers that float slowly forwards, which we can move between in different directions.

Mathis Gasser's exhibition has been realised with financial assistance from the Swiss Cultural Fund UK. Piper Keys is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Gallery opening hours 12noon to 6pm, Friday to Sunday

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¹ Lyrics from Coil's *The Dreamer is Still Asleep*.

² The Marshall Plan was a US government fund to support re-generation in Western Europe's post-war economies.