

Media information: Monday 12 November 2012

BALTIC

NEW BALTIC EDITION BY ANT MACARI

The fourth edition in the series marking **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** tenth birthday, the exclusive woodcut: *A quaint work of piety (in memory of Joseph Crawhall II)* by **Ant Macari** goes on sale, **16 November 2012**.

A quaint work of piety (in memory of Joseph Crawhall II) is a single-leaf woodcut 'xylograph' comprising ten images from one block with red numbers from a second block. The images - both referenced and invented - show religious and cultural iconographic motifs that feature throughout Macari's practice and can be read as an allegorical narrative pathway to the notion of sanctification. They also imply a secular parallel - of the contemporary artist as a latter day saint; the art world as the church; the museum as cathedral; the internet as a monastic network and art works as revered holy relics. Macari's interests in the structures beneath religion have led him to examine how and what faith means, and to ask if our secular drive for spiritual meaning has made art a surrogate for religion.

In the spirit of **Joseph Crawhall II**, each vignette or 'tail piece' presents a symbolic aspect of a belief system, they range from the 250 BC Ouroboros of Alexandria to an ornamental shorthand for the concept of sacred geometry. In between these we find a radiant black cube: the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia; a heraldic shield containing a pair of martyr's hands and three quills; a Guivere cross featuring asps; an oppressive giant hand; a miraculous reliquary resembling an art crate; a rotting head with a halo of flies; a meditation on sanctification and tonsuring and the penultimate scene of an ascension to heaven.

A quaint work of piety (in memory of Joseph Crawhall II) is a limited edition series of **100**, 2-colour xylograph on Fabriano Tiegolo (47.6 x 30cm), signed and numbered by the artist and retailing at **£175**.

BALTIC Editions are exclusively available from **BALTIC Shop** and include works by the following artists:

Martin Boyce / Graham Dolphin / Antony Gormley / Dan Holdsworth / Ant Macari / Yoko Ono / Cornelia Parker / Elizabeth Price / Matt Stokes / Mark Titchner / Mark Wallinger / Jim Shaw

Further details of each of the artist prints will be announced throughout the year. All prints can be purchased in person from **BALTIC Shop** or online from balticmill.com/editions. Works can be bought using the **Own Art** scheme in store at BALTIC, offering an easy and affordable way to spread the cost of purchase over 10 months with an interest free loan.

BALTIC Editions will release all prints during 2012 – 2013 and hope to continue this fundraising initiative in subsequent years adding to the collection with works by other significant contemporary artists.

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For further information on BALTIC Editions and BALTIC Shop please contact:
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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Joseph Crawhall II (1821-1896) was a local wood engraver and patron and promoter of the arts. The early Georgian period (1714-1830) often provided the setting for the blithe humour of his prints.

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 4.5 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

BALTIC Editions a new specially commissioned range of artist limited edition prints. The donated works, all by artists who have exhibited at the gallery, are on sale during the birthday year and proceeds from the sales will help support BALTIC's exhibition and education programme.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
Gateshead Quays
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA
UK

Admission: FREE

Opening hours:
Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00
Except Tuesdays 10.30 – 18.00

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