

## PHIL ASHCROFT

**Born** 1970

**Lives** London

The unknown is a space at once fascinating and fearful by mankind's technological advances and the romantic notion that there still lies undiscovered elements to the world in which we live. A derelict hospital, oil depots, nuclear power stations, the abominable snowman; collectively these semi-surreal settings and cartoon-like motifs appear as mysterious manifestations, phenomena both real and imagined.

Combining influences from abstract expressionism, British landscape painting, Japanese woodcuts, and graphic street art, Ashcroft integrates varied visual styles to generate a crossover between space, object and environment.

"At first sight, Ashcroft's images seem to represent a utopia of modern structures. It is only at closer inspection that we realise that there are hints at some unspecified catastrophe in his desolate urban landscape images, empty of human existence. He designs semi-surreal and cartoon-like settings, inspired by youthful obsessions in science fiction. His work has been situated in art gallery settings as well as in graphic design and consumer products." - The Garman Ryan Collection, New Art Gallery Walsall (2007)

Phil Ashcroft is an artist based in London. Solo exhibitions include Toxicity, Margaret Harvey Gallery, UH Galleries, St Albans (2006); Yeti In Hong Kong, EXIT, Hong Kong (2005) and Nitro Deluxe, Deptford X, London (2001). Ashcroft was a finalist in the Celeste Art Prize 2007 and selected for Contemporary Art Society's ARTfutures 2007 and 2005, Bloomberg SPACE, London.

Recent exhibitions include No Soul for Sale, Tate Modern, London (2010); Sleight of Hand, Recoat Gallery, Glasgow (2010); The collection of the Late Mister X, with Less is More Projects, Chic Dessin Art Fair, Paris (2010); Over the Wall, No Borders Gallery, Hong Kong (2009); The Free Art Fair, Barbican, London (2009); a commissioned, site-specific billboard for Deptford X, London (2009); Heart of Glass, Concrete and Glass, London (2008); Wonder Island, Schwartz Gallery, London (2008); Special Relationship, Scion Space, Los Angeles (2008); The Golden Record, The Collective Gallery, Edinburgh touring to The Lincoln Collection and g39, Cardiff (2008-09); Out of the Box, Garman Ryan Permanent Collection, New Art Gallery, Walsall (2007-08).

Ashcroft also exhibits as 'PhlAsh' collaborating on live-painting projects in galleries and alternative spaces from street locations to shops. These have included Special Relationship, Scion Space, Los Angeles (2008), Elephant Technique, Village Underground (2006), All The People We Like Are Dead, London (2004), and Graffiti Meets Windows 1, Hank-Yu Department Store, Osaka (2002).

His works are present in numerous public and private collections in Europe, Asia and America, including Levis, New Art Gallery Walsall, Royal Mail and Sony Archive.