

A HAPPY ACCIDENT: MONTY HITCHCOCK

Extended until 23 December 2020



The Union



Tipped by Forbes magazine as one of the top seven painting exhibitions to see in London this Autumn, **A Happy Accident: Monty Hitchcock** has now been extended until 23 December 2020 at **The Union Club**, 50 Greek Street, London W1D 4EQ. www.unionclub.co.uk.

After 35 years as an Art Director in the film industry, events in Monty's life compelled him to begin expressing himself on canvas. Two cathartic years of self-exploration has resulted in an extraordinary collection of large-scale paintings, a selection of which are being shown for at The Union Club.

In 2018, at the age of 55, Monty was diagnosed with ADHD, a period he sums up as one '*of adjustment, calibrating medication, and coming to terms with the diagnosis. As things inside the kaleidoscope began to settle I felt a compulsion to paint. Over a period of three months I painted non-stop in a cramped shed, all night sometimes, using the same 5 small canvases over and over again until they fell apart.*'

Monty's prolific output, and his compulsion to paint on larger and larger canvases, quickly made it apparent that he had outgrown his shed. And so, earlier this year, Monty moved his

working space to a film studio that triggered an extraordinary outpouring of creative energy and stories on canvas.

A Happy Accident features one of Monty's most formative works to date: *Cave*. As Monty describes it: *'Cave was my first proper painting. It is a response to the very beginning of humans creating images 40,000 years ago. I recognized the visceral power of those images when I first put paint on 'something' in my shed. It is not intended to be a copy or even resemble the original cave paintings, but it is the most personal tangible image I have ever or probably will ever create, my journey started here; 'Cave' is my own spiritual birthplace.'*

Painted in 2019, *Cave* opened the floodgates to a rush of other works which are also on show in the exhibition, including: *Fighter; Gate; Gusher; My Wife Sleeping; Reggae; Summit 2020; We Bought a Dog!; Who's Pulling the Strings*; plus a set of limited edition prints.

The paintings evidence an intense physical working method and share a freedom and vitality in their multiplicity of curves, lines and forms, applied by the artist in richly layered paints that pulsate on the canvas in a language which is, in parts, abstract, figurative and expressionistic.

As their titles suggest, the paintings allude to narratives. For instance, with *Summit 2020*, we see a mass of writhing loose-limbed figures representing the world's elite at the annual World Economic Forum in Switzerland. *Who's Pulling the Strings* is a puppet show of the world's leaders, with President Vladimir Putin (unseen) manipulating an animated President Trump who, in turn controls Boris Johnson. *Gate*, an altogether more personal painting, represents the gateway the artist sometimes crosses when into the 'neurotypical world'.

For Monty, his diagnosis of adult ADHD has proven to be a life-changing gift and in recognition of this, a percentage of sales proceeds from the exhibition are being donated to the ADHD Foundation - The Neurodiversity Charity. In Monty's words: *'For too long mental health has had a dreadful stigma attached to it and my paintings are my message to shout from the rooftops a positive message about mental health awareness and what can be achieved, no matter what your age. I didn't see this new avenue of life coming. If I can do this at the age of 57 then there is so much hope for younger (and older!) people out there.'*

Dr Tony Lloyd, CEO, ADHD Foundation - The Neurodiversity Charity, says: *'I came across Monty Hitchcock's work quite by accident, very much in the same way Monty discovered his own ADHD diagnosis and secondary career as an artist after watching Rory Bremner, our patron, discuss the condition. Monty Hitchcock's exhibition: 'A Happy Accident', shows an extraordinary output of creative energy - on a massive scale! - that is no doubt borne out of the*

fact that his ADHD diagnosis has been positively a life changing event. Monty demonstrates once again how neurodiverse individuals can contribute to all our lives, and how conditions such as ADHD should be celebrated.'

Notes for Editors

About Monty Hitchcock

Monty Hitchcock (b.1962) has spent 35 years in the film industry. He is an Emmy award-nominated Art Director who has worked with directors such as Sidney Pollack, Ridley Scott, and Clint Eastwood, and stars including Morgan Freeman, Bridget Fonda, Robert Redford, and Bill Murray; creating iconic film sets all over the world. See: www.imdb.com/name/nm0386870

Monty recently Art Directed the Netflix chart topper *Enola Holmes* (starring Millie Bobby Brown) and he is currently Art Directing *Pennyworth*, an American drama exploring the early life of Alfred Pennyworth; who, in the world of DC Comics, became the butler to Bruce Wayne. The series stars Paloma Faith and is being filmed at Warner Bros Studios, Leavesden.

Throughout his career, Monty has maintained and nurtured his primary passion for painting, taking every opportunity to develop his range and to experiment. See: www.montyhitchcock.art

About The Union Club

The Union Club is a unique and individual private members' club set up 27 years ago in a listed Georgian townhouse sitting in the heart of Soho at 50 Greek Street.

Supporting the ADHD Foundation - The Neurodiversity Charity

5% of sales proceeds from *A Happy Accident* will be donated to the ADHD Foundation, the UK's leading neurodiversity charity; whose patron, Rory Bremner, led Monty Hitchcock to discover his own happy diagnosis.

Now in its twelfth year, ADHD Foundation - The Neurodiversity Charity, is a leading neurodiversity, mental health and education charity and the largest 'user-led' ADHD agency in Europe, supporting more than 5,000 families every year with children and young people living with ADHD. It is a leading campaigner in raising awareness of the one in five people who are neurodiverse, advocating for better understanding and recognition of the dynamic contribution neurodiverse individuals make to our economy, schools, communities and arts, culture and sport. For more information about ADHD Foundation - The Neurodiversity Charity, visit the [website](#). You can also follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Visitor information

The Union Club
50 Greek Street
London W1D 4EQ
www.unionclub.co.uk

A Happy Accident: Monty Hitchcock

16 September – 23 December 2020

Non-members are welcome to visit from Tuesday through to Friday, 10:00-6:00pm, by prior appointment. Email reception@unionclub.co.uk or phone 020 7437 4002.

Media, artist, and sales enquiries

Please contact Roz Arratoon: roz@unionclub.co.uk / 07941 027 921.