MAT COLLISHAW

URBAN LEGENDS

Private View: 28 June 6pm – 8pm

Exhibition: 29June – 28 July 2018

Paul Stolper is pleased to announce ‘Urban Legends’, an exhibition of editions by Mat Collishaw. The work will include the set of seven ‘Gasconades’, inkjet and silkscreen prints, in editions of 75, each of which depicts a solitary bird whose stunning bright plumage is visually challenged by the equally bright urban graffiti’d walls that acts as their backdrop. We will also exhibit two groups of works that have developed from Collishaw’s wrap paintings, first exhibited in the show ‘This is Not an Exit’. designed to look like modernist system paintings, they all followed a very specific geometry, the lines made when folding a square of paper to form a wrap

The ‘Gasconades’, depict of birds that have left their rural landscape to live in cities, benefiting from the food and warmth that urban environments provide. However, in these surroundings the colourful birds were clashing with the dynamic city landscape. Their evolutionary designed plumage was now in competition with other elements such a graffiti and billboards,  they were lost in the dog eat dog world of advertising and promotion that they were also trying to exploit. I chained them to the walls to indicate the helplessness in their bid to show off their bright feathers in order to procreate. There colourful liveries are not there by choice, they are in bondage to the genetic program they have inherited. It reminded me of a quote from the English writer Kingsley Amis who, having lost his libido in later life said, 'Thanks God for that, it was like being chained to an idiot for 50 years'