

PAUL STOLPER

Paul Stolper is pleased to announce an exhibition of '*alpha-beta*', a portfolio of prints of the alphabet by Magne F. The portfolio consists of 30 works, in drypoint and monotype in an edition of 46 + 5AP's. There is a print for every individual letter in the alphabet, as well as the specific Norwegian letters æ, ø, å, and an exclamation mark for good measure. Numbers 1-20 from the edition are sold as complete portfolios, the rest will be sold as individual letters. Magne Furuholmen, songwriter and keyboardist in the group a-ha has run in parallel his career as a visual artist, and is represented in many private and museum collections. '*alpha-beta*' is his third solo exhibition at the Paul Stolper Gallery.

'*alpha-beta*' marks a logical conclusion of the Magne F fascination with and use of words and language over the last decade. The alphabet, broken down now to its smallest components - single letters, become building blocks placed in the hands of the viewer, to make new words and meaning as they see fit; initials or word-combinations made up wholly outside the artist's control. "I like the idea of deconstructing constructions - my own or other people's. The alphabet can be seen as a kind of 'before' and 'after', as a marketplace of unused possibility, a place of components of possible words and as a scrapheap of language where all the meaning and intention is reduced to its smallest fragments."

Furuholmen, b.1962 began exhibiting in earnest in 1989; so self-expression through combinations of sound, words and images has been a constant part of his life: "with visual art just like with music, I feel that I am working with words, composition, rhythm, sensation and atmosphere", he says. His fascination with language was triggered when he was very young: he remembers finding a hand-written note in a trumpet case that he inherited in 1969 from his father, a jazz musician. The note had song titles that Magne immediately felt the urge to turn into something else. Many years later the outcome was a series of woodcuts entitled 'Kutt', which were to become the subject of his first museum exhibition at the Henie Onstad Art Center in Oslo, in 1994.

The first 500 prints sold will be accompanied by a limited edition 12" vinyl disc signed and numbered with a new Magne F composition, titled 'Word Symphony'. 'Word Symphony' is a unique project that takes as its foundation the vocals of from a-ha's highly acclaimed new album "Foot of the Mountain". Magne has composed and constructed 'Word Symphony' using these existing sounds as raw material, whereby he deconstructs, stretches and reconfigures the vocals, taking them out of the original context melodically and linguistically, and creating a completely new piece of music in its place. In this groundbreaking experiment, the lyrics are thus pushed into new and uncharted territory. Much like the way Magne's letters are re-constituted by the viewer, so Morten's vocals, already such a signature in people's minds, are contorted, manipulated and re-presented by the artist. "I see the *Word Symphony* as a re-circulation project, taking apart something meticulously constructed, then melting and moulding it into something else.

These prints are offered at the price of £ 360 inc shipping and packing. Prints will be delivered early November.

All works available exclusively from the Paul Stolper Gallery. To order works please contact the gallery directly or visit the website www.paulstolper.com