



GAMES

June 12th – June 17th, 2012 (Basel)
July 4th – August 18th, 2012 (London)

"... The only game that belongs to all nations and all ears, although no one knows what god brought it down to earth to vanquish boredom, sharpen the senses and stretch the mind... within that immutable little square it is able to bring forth a particular species of masters who cannot be compared to anyone else, people with a gift solely designed for chess..."
Chess by Stefan Zweig, 1942

For Design Miami/Basel (June) then in London during the 2012 Olympics, Gallery Libby Sellers will present a group show themed around the game of chess. The presentation takes as its inspiration an exhibition hosted by the Julien Levy Gallery in New York, 1944, during which Levy, Max Ernst and Marcel Duchamp invited a veritable "who's who" of modernist artists (including Breton, Calder, Man Ray, Noguchi, Yves Tanguy, Arshile Gorky, Matta and Motherwell) to contribute chess sets, art works and furniture to the exhibition. A special score by John Cage was also prepared and performed during the show. The Imagery of Chess has served as inspiration to many artists and designers ever since.

The Basel presentation will be the launch of Games by Gallery Libby Sellers and will see specially commissioned pieces by Fabien Cappello, Fredrikson Stallard, Simon Hasan, Paul Kelley, Peter Marigold, Julia Lohmann and Rolf Sachs (amongst others) paying homage to both the 1944 exhibition and the "royal game" of chess.

The London presentation, due to open 4 July, will include a series of salon events such as chess tournaments, related lectures and (like the 1944 exhibition) a new musical score written by Hannah Kendell and performed specially for the exhibition with the support of the Richard Thomas Music Foundation. By quirk of fate, the timing of the London show falls almost forty years to the day of the infamous 1972 Fischer v Spassky World Chess Championship from which Fischer emerged the first American to be officially titled winner since 1888 and thereby ending 24 years of Soviet domination of the World Championship. It will also coincide with the British Chess Championships and is the gallery's wry contribution to the Olympics as a more lateral take on the notion of "Games".

For further information please contact the gallery on the details below.