



GAMES

4 July - 18 August 2012

"...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

To coincide with the 2012 Olympics, Gallery Libby Sellers presents a group show themed around the notion of games. 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 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 exhibition will see chess sets, games and other pieces by aberrant architecture + Benchmark with the American Hardwood Export Council, Fabien Cappello, Studio Frith, Alexander Gelman, Simon Hasan, Florian Hauswirth, James Irvine, Paul Kelley, Julia Lohmann and Rolf Sachs (amongst others) paying homage to both the 1944 exhibition and the 'royal game' of chess. The presentation will also include a series of salon events such as chess tournaments, related lectures and (like the 1944 exhibition) a new musical score written by Hannah Kendall and performed specially for the exhibition by Andrew Matthews-Owen with the support of the Richard Thomas 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".