

## PRESS RELEASE



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*A joint exhibition of sculptural metalwork by Robert Marsden and black and white photography by Philip Sayer.*

Robert Marsden is best known for his extraordinary and uncompromising minimalist metal sculpture. This collection of new work, entitled 'Contradictions', represents a continuation of his reflections on the perception of volumetric form in ways that can appear ambiguous or uncertain. Machined from solid aluminium and partially faced with patinated brass sheet, each piece is rectilinear, elemental and small in scale. Most are arranged in groups, encouraging close inspection in order to comprehend the similarities and differences among the shifts in his formal analyses, all enacted through a masterful interplay of light and shadow, line, plane and volume. Marsden's work has been characterised by the critic Mel Gooding as 'belonging to the specifically modernist type of the sculptural architectonic' and can easily be imagined on a very much larger scale, thus entering into a compelling relationship with the accompanying photographic images of Soviet architecture by Philip Sayer.

Philip Sayer's intensely atmospheric photographs depict seven skyscrapers commissioned by Stalin in late 1940s/early 1950s Moscow. These powerful black and white photographs convey not only the sinister architectural dominance of the subject matter, but also the careful eye and hand of the photographer, as each is crafted using traditional photographic processes. Sayer himself has said 'It's the craft of hand printing which I love... I feel more like a craftsman than an artist.' His exquisite mastery of the black and white photographic form is demonstrated in these striking photographs, which were originally commissioned in 2001 by *Domus* magazine.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Robert Marsden, born 1947, studied at High Wycombe College and the Royal College of Art, London. His work has been exhibited internationally and can be found in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery; Sheffield Assay Office; Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead; and the Crafts Council, London.

Philip Sayer, a founding member of *Blueprint* magazine, has been a freelance photographer since 1969. He learnt much of his craft as apprentice to eminent photographer Maurice Bloomfield, who documented the regeneration of heavy industry in post war Britain. Sayer has worked extensively across a broad range of subject matter for major UK and international clients that include leading art galleries and museums such as the National Gallery, the Crafts Council, The Royal Academy of Arts and the Victoria & Albert Museum, and publications including *Domus*, *Crafts*, and *The World of Interiors*.

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