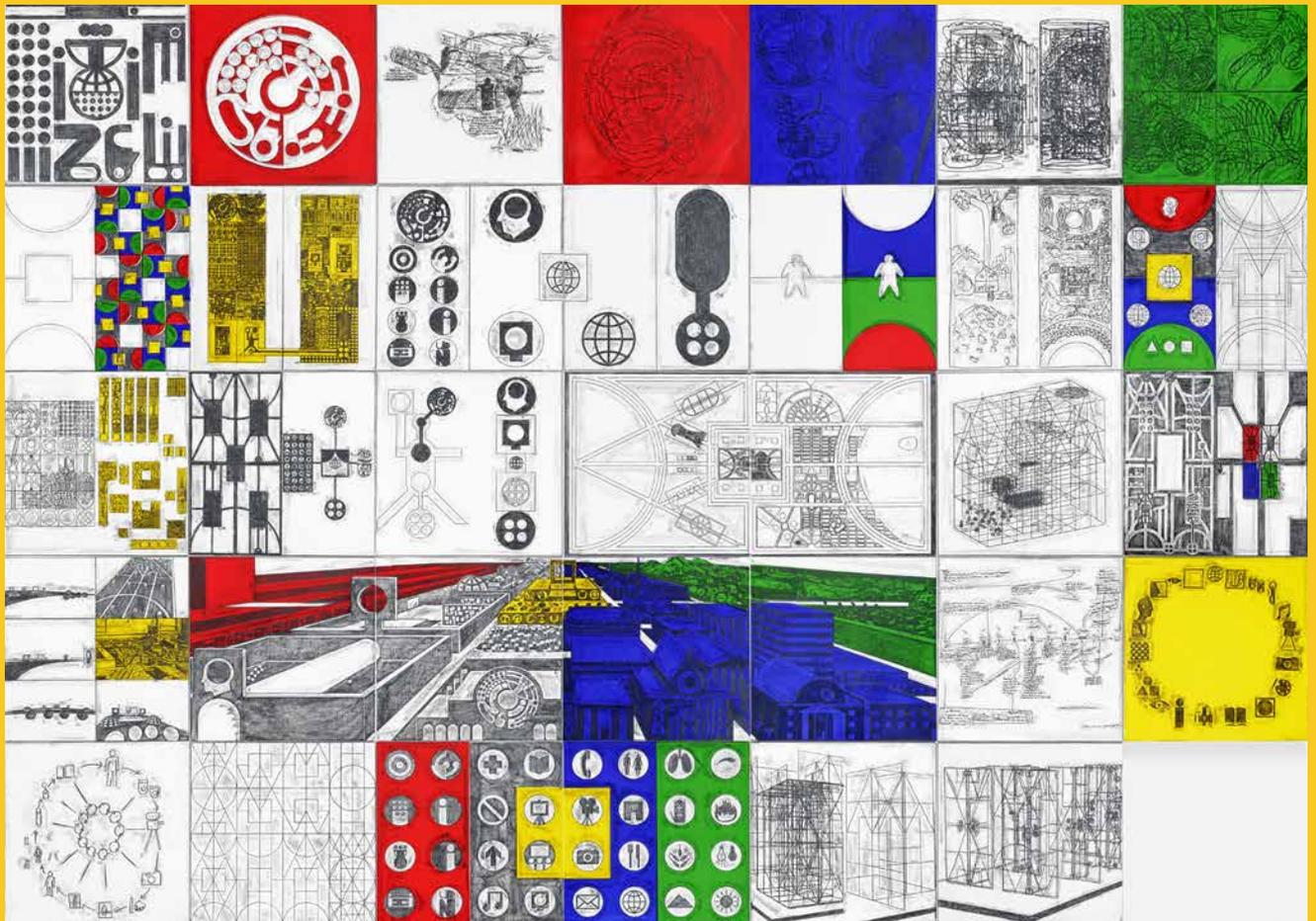


An Educators' Resource for:

Matt Mullican  
*The Sequence of Things*

Bonnie Camplin

30 September 2016 —  
8 January 2017



# Key Words

Order

Diagrams

Extra-Sensory

perception

Colour

Code

Sequence

Language

Reality

Signs

Consciousness

Experience

Minimal

Worlds



# Matt Mullican

## ● *The Sequence of Things*

For over 40 years, Matt Mullican has been developing a codified language of symbols and diagrams in an attempt to articulate the complexities of existence and the human condition.

For Mullican, 'the world' is the amalgamation of a multitude of different perceptions and experiences of it, and as such it can be explained in numerous ways. For this exhibition, Mullican layers his multiple methods of categorisation and ordering. Mathematically dividing the gallery spaces, he has laden them with his pin-boards, posters, drawings, flags, objects, photography and videos, all depicting his various maps, charts, diagrams and symbols.

Matt Mullican (b. 1951, Santa Monica, CA) lives and works in Berlin and New York. Mullican has exhibited internationally and in the UK. Exhibitions include: *Mullican Frame*, *More Details from an Imaginary Universe*, Modern Art Oxford (2000) and *Art Transpennine*, Tate Liverpool (1998).



Installation view of Matt Mullican: *The Sequence of Things* at Camden Arts Centre, 2016-17  
Photo: Mark Blower

# Bonnie Camplin

● Bonnie Camplin's work could be described as an ongoing enquiry into the nature of consciousness, the sensory forces with which we perceive the world and the psychic relations that connect people to each other, their environment and non-human entities.

For this exhibition, Camplin has developed a codified language, arranged in the gallery as an expanded schematic diagram. The event-image-objects include a female human body, a cat, grid- or cage-like structures, and semi-abstract forms such as spirals or geometric patterns.

Bonnie Camplin (b. 1970, London) lives and works in London. She graduated from St. Martins School of Art, London with a BA in Fine Art (1992) and MA in Advance Photography (1996). Throughout the '90s she was a dancer, performer, host, DJ and director/promoter of experimental avant-garde club nights in Soho, London. Her solo exhibitions include *Salty Water/What of Salty Water*, Portikius, Frankfurt (with Paulina Olowska, 2007) and *Lightbox*, Tate Britain, London (2008).



Installation view of Bonnie Camplin at Camden Arts Centre, 2016-17. Photo: Mark Blower

# Suggested Tour

## ● Gallery 1

### *“I don’t think in words”* – Mullican

#### Background:

On your left as you enter Gallery 1 are a series of framed works which use symbols as their subject.

#### Conversation points:

- What symbols do you recognise?
- What do these symbols mean to you?
- Where else might you see these symbols?

### *“The symbol is faster than the word”* – Mullican

#### Background:

Gallery 1 includes sections composed of images taken from books on three different topics: to the left of the room, the brain; to the right, art; in the middle, witchcraft and alchemy. Beside each image in the middle section, Mullican re-presents the images of witchcraft and alchemy by providing a simple black and white text.

#### Conversation points:

Think about the relationship between image and language.

- What do you enjoy reading the most? The image or the text?
- Are both the image and the text works of art?
- Would you use the same words to describe the images as Mullican? If not, which words would you choose?

[There are no right or wrong answers!]

## ● Gallery 2

### *“Art about living”* – Mullican

#### Background:

Gallery 2 is dominated by five flags, each a different colour with a symbol at their centre. These flags demonstrate the way in which Mullican perceives, interprets and orders the world. He calls this his ‘cosmology’. The red flag represents the subjective, black and white for language, yellow for arts, blue for the everyday world, and green for the elemental or material world.

#### Conversation points:

- What five categories would you use to order your life?
- What sequence would these categories follow? Do they all interlink and flow into one another? Or are any of the categories separate from the others?

# Suggested Tour

## ● Gallery 3

Background:

Look around Gallery 3. Camplin uses her artwork as a way of accessing and documenting her memories. She has described this collection of works as a 'technology', as it enables her to accomplish this objective with ease.

The work to the right as you enter the gallery demonstrates what Camplin describes as the 'holarchic' nature of reality, in which worlds exist within worlds. Using diagrams and symbols (in this instance circles), Camplin demonstrates how one element sits within another element, serving a unique function at the same time as forming one part of a bigger structure.

Conversation points:

- Do you think it's possible that other worlds exist? If so, what might another world be like?
- Could another version of you exist in another world too? What would they be like?

## ● Central Space

After visiting all the gallery spaces, think about the works by the two different artists you have seen. Why do you think their works have been displayed together? In what ways were they similar and/or different? Whose artwork did you prefer and why? Did you have a favourite piece?

# Activities

## ● Create your own Cosmology

Matt Mullican uses five different colours and symbols in order to represent different aspects of the world. Think of five different activities you have done today (this could be eating, walking, talking, watching TV etc.) and assign each a different symbol that you think is appropriate. Then think of five emotions you have felt and assign each one a colour. Now draw a picture of your day using your colours and symbols. This is your cosmology.

## ● Memory Symbol

In small groups, take it in turns to read a line from Matt Mullican's memory list, displayed in one of the large framed collages in Gallery 2 (fourth from left). Each person in the group should think of a memory they are willing to share and write it down using only 2-8 words. Head into Gallery 3 and share your memories. Using Camplin's work as inspiration, create a symbol to represent your memory. Then think of a body shape or gesture that could go with your symbol. Go around the group again, this time perform your memory symbols and gestures.

## ● Capturing Consciousness

Sit in a corner of a gallery for two minutes: look around and take notice of the people, objects and sounds around you. What can you see, hear, and smell in the gallery? After two minutes try and draw a diagram that represents your thoughts, feelings and experiences during the two-minute period.

# Planning your visit

Camden Arts Centre's schools programme has artists and process at its heart. Offering practical, experimental and fun entry points to the exhibitions, our offer includes a range of resources and activities for educators and school groups including tours, artist-led workshops, and self-led visits.

For further information on our education programme please visit our website or contact Livvy Murdoch: [livvy.murdoch@camdenartscentre.org](mailto:livvy.murdoch@camdenartscentre.org) / +44 (0)20 7472 5517

## Access

Disabled parking is available for disabled visitors. Please telephone the bookshop on +44 (0)20 7472 5500 to book this space. Please contact us if you have any additional access requirements.

## Keep in Touch

Join the Educators' Information mailing list via our website for regular updates and resources. Photography of the exhibition is permitted and we encourage you to share images of your activities using #CACeducation #MattMullican #BonnieCamplin

## Blogs

CAC Education Blog: [camdenartscentre.tumblr.com](http://camdenartscentre.tumblr.com)

Youth Collective Digital Scrapbook: [cacyouthcollective.tumblr.com](http://cacyouthcollective.tumblr.com)



Installation view of Bonnie Camplin at Camden Arts Centre, 2016-17. Photo: Mark Blower