studio international

February 1966

Six shillings One dollar U.S. Bonnard discussed by David Sylvester Michael Podro and Andrew Forge

Concrete Poetry/Rupprecht Geiger/Bryan Kneale Commentaries from London/Germany/New York



dick fizzell studio international 22 may - 14 jun 2025

International Modernism hit ILAM like a meteorite in 1961, and I was directly in the path of it.

This major extinction event happened in my first year, in the middle of a tepid diet of polite early British Modernism hedged with a touch of Synthetic cubism. Ben Nicholson, Ivon Hitchens, Paul Nash, William Scott...all great and I love them...but where were Peter Blake, Edward Ruscha, Jasper Johns? These guys were all warming up their primary colours while we were still stuck in the tertiaries!

We suspected that something bigger was going on in the world thanks to ancient copies of the Studio International magazine but could never grasp the whole picture such was the communication hole we seemed to be stuck in.

Then it was our turn to host the Universities Arts Festival. ELAM sent down a crate of paintings as their contribution to the Exhibition.

And here's the meteorite: I was half-heartedly scumbling away with my neutral halftones when Murray Grimsdale burst into the studio and said, 'Come and have a look at this!' I followed him down the corridor to the sculpture department where they were crowbarring open a large crate by the loading bay. The first painting to be partially revealed...the one that got Murray in such a lather... was a large composition of what looked like a slice through a hardboiled egg. Concentric ellipses of high-keyed oranges, yellows and red. We couldn't believe it! They were teaching this at an art school? At Elam?

The artist was John Perry and the teacher was Robert Ellis. Brought out from England to teach design but 'secretly' spreading the Mid 20th century gospel to any student hip enough to dig it.

And that was pretty much it...a new world opened...and I visit it as often as I can!

Dick Frizzell, May 2025