

JOHN DOLAN

JOHN AND GEORGE

17 July - 17 August

Howard Griffin Gallery London

After his sell-out debut exhibition at Howard Griffin Gallery, notorious Shoreditch artist John Dolan returns to the gallery with a landmark exhibition entitled *John and George*.

John Dolan is east London's most notorious artist. For three years, he sat every day with his dog George on Shoreditch High Street. In the past, Dolan had been in and out of prison and often found himself homeless. Sitting on the street every day and watching the world go by, he became part of the community, speaking to passers by about his life, his experiences and George. Dolan began to draw the buildings on the street to document his day, elevating the old, decrepit buildings that are so often ignored and under appreciated. He also drew portraits of George as he sat beside him, and began to sell his drawings to the people he saw walk up and down Shoreditch High Street every day.

Howard Griffin Gallery met John Dolan a year ago. His debut exhibition in September 2013 focused on his unique cityscapes, and saw Dolan collaborate with some of the world's biggest street artists. His next exhibition, *John and George*, moves away from his documentation of the street and turns inward, centring on the unique relationship between the artist and George.

The story of John and George is one of companionship and hope. Dolan was on the streets when he was given George in exchange for the price of a strong can of lager. Since that time, George has been Dolan's most loyal companion, ultimately enabling him to change his life. With George at his side, Dolan managed to escape a twenty year cycle of homelessness and prison, establishing himself as one of east London's most recognisable artists.

John and George will present viewers with an immersive microcosm of the street in which visitors will be surrounded by hundreds of drawings of George. The repetition in Dolan's work stems from the years of working on the street where each



drawing he made of George marked the passing of another day and George's presence was the one thing in Dolan's life which he could rely on totally. In the chaotic world in which we live, Dolan uses repetition to encourage viewers to take a moment and see things in a different way. The subtle variations in each drawing tell a story and document a quiet and unassuming friendship that for one month will be shared with visitors to the gallery.

In addition to presenting new original works and prints, the exhibition marks the publication of Dolan's autobiography by Random House. The book chronicles his inspiring story of survival and redemption through art and will be launched at the private view on 17 July at Howard Griffin Gallery. Proceeds from the exhibition are being donated to The Big Issue Foundation and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

Further information and sales:

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