

Piper Keys
Exhibitions

Oscar Laughridge
The Community

28th April to 6th June
Opening view: Friday 27th April, 6 to 9pm

For his first solo exhibition Oscar Laughridge presents new collages from his ongoing series *The Community*.

The works are approximate reproductions of a handmade display found in the waiting room of a doctor's surgery. The original paper design, made from an arrangement of cut-out words and hung with drawings pins, indexed the various minor ailments patients should have treated by a nurse. Guided by the visual and material decisions of this display, Laughridge remakes enlargements of different sections, cropping words and design elements with little embellishment.

Each collage is made from inkjet prints of red strips with white lettering, stuck down to a larger grid of white paper. As cropping occurs the alphabetised list of the original is lost — now words run off the edge of the composition, leaving syllables hanging and ugly words (eczema, thrush, boils) floating out of context. As these medical terms are clipped and partial repetitions play out around the room, surface, detail and minor inconsistencies get foregrounded.

Confrontation with these medical terms is somewhat reminiscent of online health-care, multiple-choice questionnaires and self-diagnosis. The feedback form experience of our contemporary health service. As a public exhibition these, at times embarrassing, fleshy dysfunctions speak of a communality: a slapstick sharing of our day-to-day bodily reality.

Despite this the words never cohere into a communiqué, form always subtly undermines any forceful declaration. The regular repetitions of the collages, the inclusion of the same phrases and sections of design, show some perverse interest in the micro-texture of these images: the overlaying of paper to form edges and faint lines, matching colours or shapes as if continually editing a document.

Piper Keys is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Piper Keys will run an independent programme from its current location at the invitation of Raven Row from Spring 2018 to Autumn 2019.

Gallery opening hours 12noon to 6pm, Friday to Sunday
Entrance through 58a Artillery Lane

Piper Keys
58a Artillery Lane
London, E1 7LS

info@piperkeys.com
www.piperkeys.com