

Scott King

De-Regeneration

4 October–22 November 2014

Exhibition Opening Event

Saturday 4 October 2014, 3–5pm

Join us for the opening of *De-Regeneration*, an artist talk by Scott King will take place from 4pm.

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In this solo exhibition at Spacex, Scott King presents a body of recent work that deals almost exclusively with notions of public art and its role within urban regeneration.

Presented as a series of prints, *Anish and Antony Take Afghanistan*, 2014, employs humour to explore the astonishing power of public art that has long been recognised by both western governments and ‘big business’ alike. With increasingly large public sculptures being commissioned to ‘regenerate’ ailing post-industrial areas, King asks, ‘what if this strategy were employed in an attempt to turn around the fortunes of a whole country?’ This work proposes a scenario in which two giants of British public art are commissioned by the United Nations in a last ditch attempt to solve the social, financial, and political problems of Afghanistan.

Other works included in the exhibition are inspired by government ideologies of regeneration in post-industrial Britain. *Long Live Death*, 2012, sees the artist place Antony Gormley’s *Angel of the North* atop Nelson’s Column in Trafalgar Square, London. *Totem Motif*, 2014, features a found photograph from 1964 showing two young women admiring a recently erected Henry Moore public sculpture in the ‘new town’ of Harlow, Essex. In the series of photographs *A Balloon for Britain*, 2012, King imagined that the current Conservative government had offered him millions of pounds to devise a scheme that would regenerate Britain’s 10 poorest towns and cities. The result, an idea to float 50 metre tall party balloons across each of these 10 poverty stricken areas. King adds, ‘market research shows that of the 100 people asked to express a ‘pro’ or ‘anti’ balloon opinion, 67 people said they welcomed the idea, 29 thought it was potentially hazardous to both motorists and aircraft and 4 people said they did not care either way’.

#DeRegeneration

ENDS

**For further information please contact Spacex marketing manager Rowan Green
tel: 01392 431 786, email: rowan@spacex.org.uk**

Notes to editors

Scott King was born in Goole, East Yorkshire, England, 1969. He lives and works in London. In the 1990s he worked as art director of *i-D* magazine and later as creative director of *Sleazation* magazine. As a graphic designer he has collaborated with such iconic figures as Malcolm McLaren, the Pet Shop Boys, Michael Clark and Suicide. King's work has been exhibited worldwide at institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art and White Columns, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg; KW, Berlin; Kunstverein Munich; ICA and Barbican, London.

2014 solo exhibitions include: *Totem Motif*, Between Bridges, Berlin, Germany; *Totem Motif*, Bortolami, New York, USA; *The Festival of Stuff*, Haus der Berliner Festspiele, Berlin, Germany. Forthcoming group exhibitions include: *Regenerate Art*, 2014, Kunstverein Munich, Germany; and *Panda Sex*, State of Concept, Athens, Greece, 2014.

Scott King is represented by Herald St, London, and Bortolami, New York.

<http://scottking.co.uk> / @info_scottking

Spacex is a leading contemporary art gallery located in the centre of Exeter. Its diverse programme encourages public engagement with the latest developments in contemporary art through a changing exhibitions programme, which includes new commissions, projects and activities. A significant part of the programme, including artist-led projects, events and research, takes place outside of the gallery. Spacex has an international reputation for presenting ideas from some of the most daring and exciting artists working today.

<http://spacex.org.uk> / @spacexgallery

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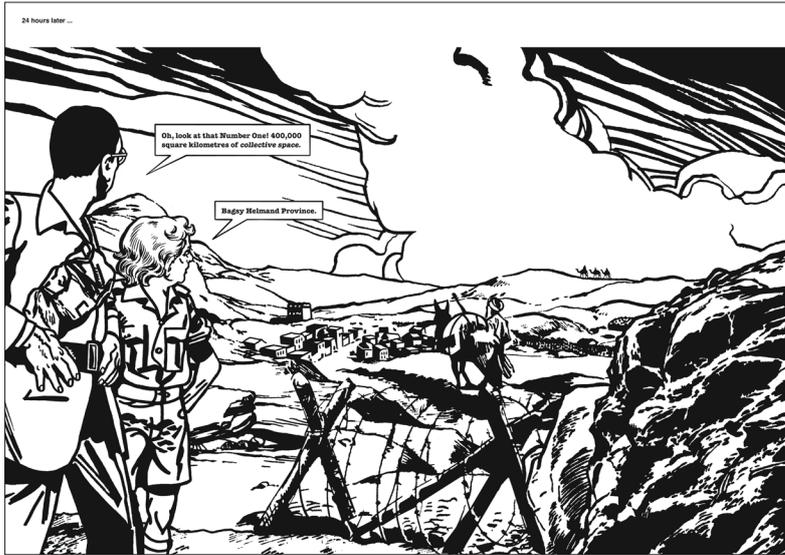


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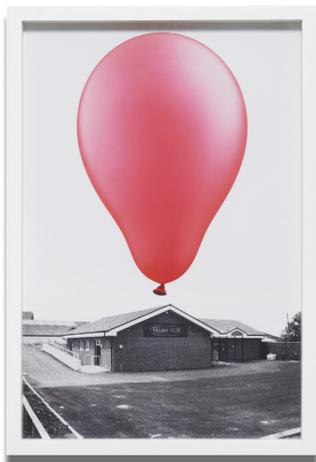
Scott King, *Anish and Antony Take Afghanistan*, Illustration by Will Henry, 32 parts, 2014.
Inkjet print on paper, various sizes. Courtesy Herald St, London and Bortolami, New York



Scott King, *Long Live Death*, 2012. inkjet print, 219x150cm. Courtesy Herald St, London



Scott King, *A Balloon for Britain*, 2012. Digital print, 10 parts, each: 45x30cm
Courtesy Herald St, London



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