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SOME NUMBERS
David Connearn
(b. 1952, UK)

12 March – 31 May 2025

Gallery hours: Thu-Sat, 1-7 PM or by appointment
Avenue Van Volxem 333, 1190 Forest – Brussels, Belgium



Installation view at Patrick Hiede Contemporary Art

SOME NUMBERS

We are delighted to introduce *Some Numbers*, the first solo presentation of recent works by British artist David Connearn (b. 1952, London, UK) in our Brussels showroom. Connearn's work speaks to those interested in the physical and philosophical dimensions of artistic process. It challenges viewers to contemplate the implications of repetition, endurance, and simplicity, transforming drawing into a place of both physical act and metaphysical exploration. While its disciplined minimalism may not resonate with all audiences, it remains a significant contribution to contemporary drawing, pushing the boundaries of subject matter and temporal process.

The exhibition consists of over 850,000 numbers inscribed on sheets of paper, yet even this vast sum represents only a minute fraction of the numbers in play—each of them well-known within their mathematical fields and, in all cases, infinite. The selection includes the square root of 2, Euler's number (e), the Euler-Mascheroni constant (γ), the Euler-Gompertz constant (δ), and Liouville's constant.

The origins of these works trace back to Connearn's prizewinning drawing *Holocene*, made for the 2000 Jerwood exhibition. This visual representation of the 2000-digit "Millennium Prime," discovered by mathematician John Cosgrave, employed ten different pen widths to correspond to the numerals in decimal notation. However, a deeper structural foundation underpins Connearn's works—specifically, the relationship between the drawn surface and the overall area, based on the root 2 proportion he has employed since the earliest days of his line-based practice over four decades ago. This proportion governs the relationship between the diagonal of the drawn area and the overall dimensions of his predominantly square drawings.

Connearn's approach challenges traditional expectations of drawing by prioritizing process over subject or narrative. His emphasis on repetition aligns his work with process-oriented artists like Agnes Martin and Roman Opalka, both of whom used systematic mark-making to explore existential and perceptual questions. Opalka becomes a key reference in this exhibition. In his 2014 essay on Opalka, Robert Morgan highlights the artist's distinction between his own 'pragmatic' work and the 'mystical' aspirations of Malevich. Connearn's ironically (*Aufhebung*) titled pieces echoes this distinction—his practice acknowledges Opalka's spiritual claims while simultaneously subverting them.

The square root of 2 defines the dimensions of the A-series paper format (as standardized by ISO 216), making it the determining ratio of Connearn's compositions. His two AO sheets, *After Opalka: Searching for the Spiritual in the Ruins of Root 2*, do not narrate or valorise the artist. Instead, in keeping with Connearn's reflexive approach, they describe their own materiality. The three homages to Euler reference the mathematician's efforts to establish coherent foundations for analysis—contrasting with his contemporary d'Alembert's famous exhortation in which Connearn hears Opalka's voice: "Just keep moving forwards, and faith will come to you." *Searching for the Spiritual in the Origin of Transcendence* engages with Liouville's constant, the first transcendental number, rendering it to over 9! places. This number was chosen for its poetic qualities—its maximal minimalism and its near-infinite embrace of nothingness.

David Connearn has exhibited widely in the UK and abroad. His works are in important private and public collections such as the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Council.



After Opalka: Searching for the spiritual in the ruins of root 2 - the first quarter of a million places
9 drawings (portrait format), comprising a digital articulation of $\sqrt{2}$, to 253,382 places.
0.25 mm pen & black ink on 300 gsm Heritage Rag paper
233.5 x 330 mm (each)
2023
€ 3.000 incl. frame & VAT (each) | €25.000 incl. frame & VAT for the set of nine



Searching for the spiritual in the origin of transcendence. (Liouville's constant to 387,836 places)

11 drawings, 0.25 mm pen & black ink on 300 gsm Heritage Rag paper

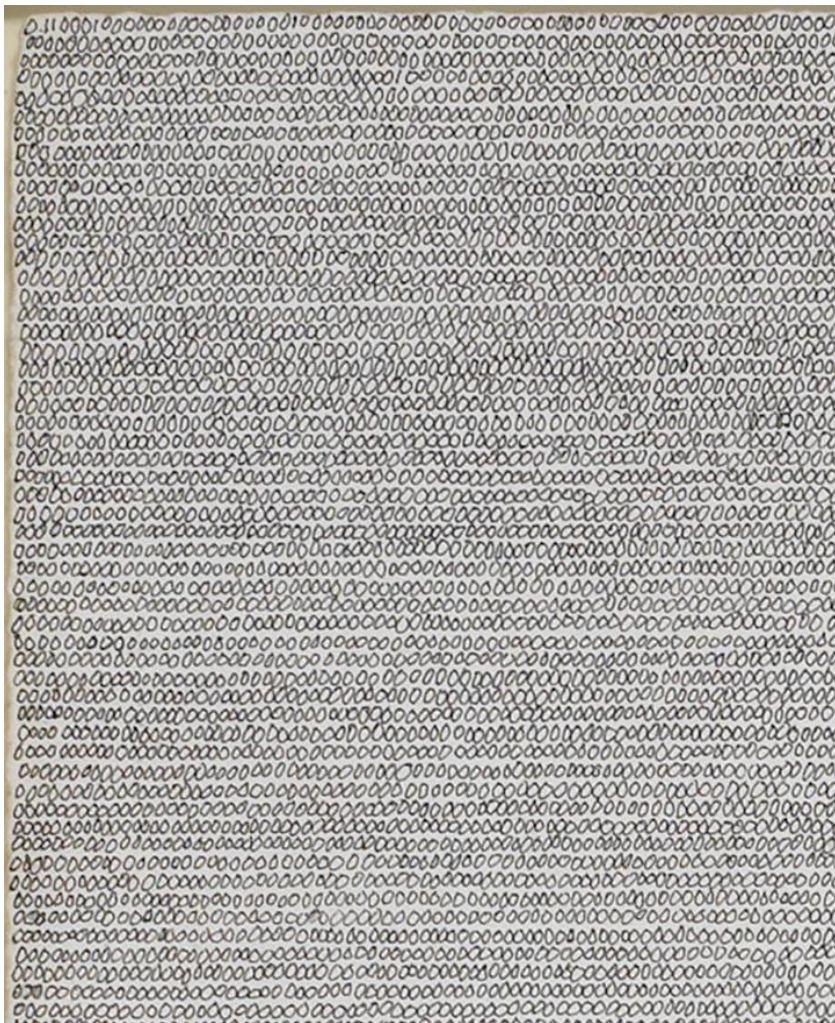
297 x 297 mm (each)

2024

€ 3.300 incl. frame & VAT (each) | € 30.000 incl. frame & VAT for the set







(detail)



Three homages to Euler number 1 - The Euler-Mascheroni constant gamma (γ) to 16,875 places
2 drawings, 10 pens, erased pencil & black ink on 300gsm Heritage Rag paper
297 x 297 mm (each)
2023
€ 3.000 incl. frame & VAT (each)



Three homages to Euler number 2 - The Euler-Gompertz constant delta (δ) , to 391 places
1 drawing, 9 pens, erased pencil & black ink on 300 gsm Heritage Rag paper
297 x 297 mm
2025
€ 3.300 incl. frame & VAT



(detail)



Three homages to Euler number 3 - Euler's number e, to 34,845 places
1 drawing, 0.25 mm pen & black ink on 300 gsm Heritage Rag paper
297 x 297 mm
2024
€ 3.300 incl. frame & VAT (each)

Z: 1782618264590452353622822356674977572409361995757496696207720076630355475745713821785251644272
00168444185374234544243710753774444420695140276185860261531845830007520449338265027470673711322077
9536354420092878575936680331825298693194744510582093423782944887933203625074431782123819206941614039
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7437022675274444633779404254921785072577825620726274832627713338656648627725164017105900491644982259
537222001578163004655606816674001098420558040336375374520304024827566352793639511778938638744396253274
669381513752275344509888903186020572494765851180036364428123149655670475102544465014227211555149468508003695
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739114003054977780569778733580497670617511943244309758765123081285704138324116722629985305553701
0316874581340604458459251267946557240311865642097526380823095442545945769170417776008531273094171016
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62521076323130193467079468352401370977165122892444807765487775504851980669132583790337492108369

(detail)

DAVID CONNEARN

Born in 1952, London, UK
Lives and works in London, UK

Education

1975 Queens' College Cambridge, BA History
1979 Camberwell School of Art, BA Sculpture
1981 Slade School of Art, University College London, HDFA
1979-91 Assistant to Sol LeWitt
1983-93 Partner, Art Engineering Design (international sculpture fabrication)
1990-95 Committee, Portland Sculpture Trust

Solo Exhibitions and Collaborations

2025 Some Numbers, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, Brussels
2023 Drawing, Studio exhibition AiR Gapado Korea
2019 Drawing (with Gerhard Lang), Galerie Susanne Albrecht, Berlin
2018 Drawing History Painting, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London
2013 Drawing, Gallery Weissraum, Kyoto, Japan
Drawing, Akioshidai Art Center, Yamaguchi, Japan
Drawing, Gallery Concept Space, Gunma, Japan
2011 Drawing, Heraclitus Fragment 12, Sleeper, Edinburgh
Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London
2005 Embassy of Japan, London (with Naoko Nakatani)
2003 Hours, TaighChearsabagh, Uist
Apophasis, Mhere Festival of Contemporary Music, France (with Tim Hodgkinson)
Joyce Laing Gallery, Pittenweem (with Ian Stephen)
2002 Hours: Round Room, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh
Drawing, Dogger Fisher, Edinburgh
2001 John Florent Stone Fellowship Exhibition: (installation), ECA, Edinburgh
Drawing, Atopia, Houston
Apophasis, Sleeper, Edinburgh (with Tim Hodgkinson)
2000 Wigmore Fine Art, London (with Pat Kaufman)
1999 Drawing, Galerie Avivson, Paris
Offshore Onshore, Runogalleria, Helsinki (with Ian Stephen)
1998 Drawing, The Economist, London
Time & Tide, Art.tm, Inverness (with Ian Stephen)
Avivson at Lindenberg, New York (with Chris Drury)
1997 Dealabaght / Drawing, An Lanthair, Stornoway, Isle of Lewes
1989 Drawing, Galerie Ekymose, Bordeaux
1988 Drawing, Cairn Gallery, Nailsworth
1987 Salt and Water (drawing & installation), Victoria Miro, London
Drawing, Galerie Maximilien Guiol, Paris
1986 Drawing, Gruppa Krakowska, Krakow (with Leszeck Brogowski)
Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth (with Leszeck Brogowski)
1985 Drawing, Galerie Maximilien Guiol, Paris

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024-25 Through Line, City Art Centre, Edinburgh
2024 AirR, Fellowship Artists, Kumho Museum, Seoul, Korea
AirR, Fellowship Artists, Hyundai Card Gallery, Seoul Korea
- 2023 AirR 2023, Fellowship Artists, Gapado AiR Gallery, Gapado, Korea
Mind and Materials, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London
- 2022 Stadt Land Fluss, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin
- 2021 At Home, Laure Genillard Gallery, London
Still Masters, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London
- 2020-21 My Name is not Refugee, FirstSite, Colchester (Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme)
- 2020 Ausblicke, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin
- 2019 Should I stay or Should I go, Patrick Heide with Bartha Contemporary, London
- 2018 Dialogues with a collection, Gallery Laure Genillard.
No Man is an Island, Art Dialogue, Bonn
- 2017 The Dodo and the Seed, Siobhan Davis Dance Studio, London
- 2016 British Wittgenstein Society exhibition, Curator Mike Rose-Steel, Leeds University
- 2015 WOR(L)DS IN COLLISION, Byrne House, University of Exeter
Oeuvres, Slewe Gallery, Amsterdam (with Jill Baroff, Tom Benson, Susan Collis, Károly Keserü, Katie Paterson, Ignacio Uriarte)
- 2014 mimēma, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London
- 2013 British Drawings: 1600 to the Present Day, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- 2010 Shelter: On Kindness, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
Inscriptions, Jerwood Space, London (with Phillip Eglin and Charlotte Hodes)
- 2009 Slewe Gallery, Amsterdam
- 2007 For Sol LeWitt, Cairn Gallery, Fife
Drawing Room, London
- 2006 Drawing Breath: 10 Years of the Jerwood Prize, Wimbledon College of Art, London (touring Sidney, Bristol and Aberdeen)
- 2005 ShowCASE, City Arts Centre, Edinburgh
- 2003 Prospects Drawing Exhibition, London
- 2001 Out of Line: Drawings from the Arts Council Collection; touring York, Sheffield, Llandudno, Stoke and Middlesbrough Art Galleries
- 2001 Nothing: Exploring Invisibilities, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland
Information, Percy Miller Gallery, London (with Will Alsop, Tracy Emin, Jan Kapliky, Zaha Hadid)
Apophysis. Visual Scores, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester
Art Paris: Carroussel du Louvre, Galerie Avivson
- 2000 Dream Machines: National Touring Exhibition, Hayward Gallery, London; touring CVA Dundee, Mapin Sheffield & Camden Art Centre, London
Digital Expressions; touring Llandudno, Rhyl & Ruthin Art Galleries
Cheltenham (Jerwood) Open Drawing Exhibition (major prize); touring Hull and Sierre Switzerland
Viatico: Home Abroad, Frankfurt
- 1999 Drawing, Margaret Thatcher Projects, New York
Passport Stamps: Morning Star. Art.tm, Inverness
Millenium, Flowers East, London
Equinox, Cairn Gallery, Nailsworth
- 1998 Graphic, Monash University Gallery, Victoria, Australia
Music, Flowers East, London
Sale or Return, Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh
Cheltenham Open Drawing Exhibition, Cheltenham College of Art; touring Hull & Berlin
- 1997 Networking, Art by post and Fax, Arts Council National touring exhibition
Southbank Banners Installation, Upper Ground, London
Irgendetwas folgt immer auf etwas anderes, Gallery Dzuper, Munich
- 1996 11th Cleveland Drawing Biennale, Middlesbrough
British Abstract Art: Works on Paper, Angela Flowers, London
- 1995 Multiples, The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds
Taking Form, Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh
Words, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth

- 1994 Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London
Solstice, Cairn Gallery, Nailsworth
- 1993 The Towner Open, Towner Gallery Eastbourne
Oriel Mostyn Open, Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno
- 1992 Directly on the Wall (Cutts, Clark, Connearn), Cairn Gallery, Nailsworth
The Intelligence of Drawing, Graeme Murray, Edinburgh
- 1991 Aspex Retrospective, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth
- 1986 Illuminations 6 (Connearn, Goldsworthy, Leapman, Mach), Gallery Deitmar Lorlh,
Monchengladbach
- 1985 Coracle Press at Olympia, London
3 Artists at PCL (Firth, Woodley, Connearn), Polytechnic of Centra, London
- 1984 Ecritures, Garirie CAC Pablo Neruda, Corbeille Essonnes
New Works on Paper, British Council Touring Exhibition, Poland
Repeat, Coracle Press, London
Low Tech, Coracle Press, London
Salon d'Automn, Coracle Press, Serpentine Gallery, London
- 1983 Stroke Line and Figure, Gimpel Fils, London
The South Bank Show, The South London Art Gallery, London
Assemble Here!, Coracle Press, The Puck Building, New York
5th Cleveland Drawing Biennale, The Cleveland Gallery, Middlesbrough
- 1982 2nd Nuremburg International Drawing Triennial, Nuremburg
Gallery Artists: Sally East Gallery, London
- 1981 4th Cleveland Drawing Biennale, The Cleveland Gallery, Middlesbrough
Through Summer, The Lisson Gallery, London
The Construction Show, House gallery, London
- 1979 New Contemporaries, ICA, London

Public & Private Collections

Victoria & Albert Museum
City Art Center Edinburgh
James Ward Aldon
Adam Barker-Mill
Doris Lockhart
Alan Banks
Irish Museum of Modern Art
Economist
British Museum Collection
Unilever Collection
Arts Council of England
The British Council
Gallery Achenbach Hagemeyer, Dusseldorf
Gohonjo Kenzo, Japan
Frank Williams Collection, USA
Maxine & Stuart Frankel Collection, USA