

Tristan Hoare Gallery,  
in association with Orson Fry

# AN EVENING WITH ANTONY LITTLE

A Talk with Antony Little celebrating  
the Draughtsmanship & Design of the 1960's  
accompanied by an exhibition of original prints

18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

Exhibition: 2 - 6pm

Talk : 6:30pm

Drinks: 7pm



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Tristan Hoare and Orson Fry are delighted to present a talk and exhibition by British illustrator and designer Antony Little, for one night only in Fitzroy Square. Renowned for his designs for the iconic sixties boutiques Biba and Hung on You, Antony also co-founded the luxury wallpaper and fabric company Osborne & Little. This exhibition, curated by Orson Fry, opens on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and will be a unique opportunity to hear about Antony's creative life in his own words.

The Swinging Sixties was a busy time for Antony Little. Whether he was creating the famous shopfronts for Barbara Hulanicki's Biba or Michael Rainey's Hung on You, producing striking wallpaper designs for his Chelsea showroom, or set-designing John Aspinall's decadent feasts at The Clermont Club, Antony was one of London's most sought-after designers in this colourful decade. His bold style and singular abilities as a draughtsman placed him at the forefront of the Art Nouveau movement which was then experiencing a revival.

In 1967 Antony was approached to illustrate an edition of short stories by the French surrealist poet Guillaume Apollinaire. He combined his draughtsmanship and rich imagination to deliver sixteen exquisite black and white illustrations in the manner of Aubrey Beardsley. Expressing the macabre, outrageous, witty, and erotic nature of the stories, they became wonderful works of art in their own right.

For this exhibition the original drawings will be on display for the first time, alongside portraits of key figures from Antony's circle, including Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, and Antony's wife Jennifer. A selection of 7 larger limited-edition prints signed by the artist will be available to purchase. The story of Antony's life as an artist, as told through sketchbooks and photos, will support the work on view and provide an intimate and timely glimpse into his life and the creative imagination of Britain during the era. The evening will conclude with an exclusive talk with Antony himself, followed by a curated tour of the exhibition.

Accompanying the exhibition will be an extended online viewing room presented by Tristan Hoare Gallery, available online.

## Notes to Editors

### **ANTONY LITTLE: ONE NIGHT ONLY**

18<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Tristan Hoare Gallery, 6 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 5DX

### **OPENING HOURS**

Exhibition 2pm-6pm

Talk: drinks from 6.30pm, talk begins at 7pm

### **PRESS PREVIEW**

2pm - 4pm

### **PRIVATE VIEW**

2pm - 6pm

### **TALKS & EVENTS**

*An Illustrated Life: Antony Little in conversation with Orson Fry*

Drinks from 6:30pm

Talk begins at 7pm

### **ONLINE**

<https://tristanhoaregallery.co.uk/viewing-room/>

18<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October

## Antony Little

**Antony Little** is a British designer, artist and illustrator who was at the forefront of the Art Nouveau Revival in fashion and art in the 1960's. He has worked as an illustrator for various book projects over the years, mostly notably for a collection of short stories by Guillaume Apollinaire, and collaborated on design projects with figures such as Julie Hodgess, Barbara Hulinacki, Michael Rainey and Nicky Haslam. He is also co-founder of the luxury British wallpaper and fabric company Osborne & Little, which he set up in partnership with his brother-in-law Peter Osborne. These days Antony spends his time between his flat in Chelsea and his keeper's lodge in Wiltshire, where he works on various land conservation and rewilding projects, and paints watercolours of local wildlife.

## Tristan Hoare Gallery

Founded in 2009, **Tristan Hoare** is a multi-layered gallery focusing on young and established artists working in a variety of mediums. African photography, glass, textile art, painting and drawing are all areas of interest, as well as a developing passion for ceramics.

Each year we curate an ambitious exhibition with an overarching theme. *Geometrica* (2018), *Botanica* (2019), *Folds* (2021), *The Conference of the Birds* (2022) and *Paper* (2023) enabled us to collaborate with multiple artists and galleries, combining work from BC to the present day. Exhibitions are executed with the intention of telling a story and connecting with both seasoned collectors and people less familiar with the art world.

The gallery is located in a Grade I listed Georgian townhouse in Fitzroy Square.

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## Orson Fry

Orson Fry is a writer and musician living in London. He is also Antony Little's great-nephew: "Ever since I first saw Antony's drawings on the bathroom wall of his London home, I have wanted to organise a show for him. He is a brilliant artist and a wonderful character, a true one-off. To this day I have only ever seen Antony in one of two 'uniforms': his dark polo neck and pin-stripe suit, or his white shirt and cream suit, even while he is out digging for Roman limestone on his land in Wiltshire. And he is always wearing white Chelsea boots, hand-made by a cobbler in Naples, of which he owns thirteen identical pairs."

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