



1940            Born Darlington, Co Durham

Alan Kitching became an apprentice compositor with a local letterpress printer four days after his fifteenth birthday and continued working there until 1961. In 1962 he moved south to pursue a career in design.

In 1964 he met Anthony Froshaug and co-established the experimental printing workshop at Watford College of Technology, School of Art. Kitching worked with Froshaug until 1967 and later collaborated on student projects at the Central School of Art & Design, London (now Central St Martins).

Kitching established own design practice London in 1973 and became a partner with Derek Birdsall at Omnific in 1977. He started letterpress printing there in 1985. He began teaching typography as a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art in London and continued to teach there until 2006. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Art in 1998 and Visiting Professor at the London Institute (University of the Arts London) in 2001.

The Typography Workshop, established by Kitching in 1989, is based in London and uses traditional techniques of letterpress printing. Through wood and metal type, relief printing processes and an assortment of presses, the studio produces highly evocative graphic images which will be familiar to every reader of the Guardian newspaper or visitor to Borough Market.

Alan met designer and writer Celia Stothard (1949 - 2010) in 1994 and so began their fruitful collaboration including relocating The Typography Workshop's studio, hosting workshops and collecting letterpress materials together. TTW's collection of original letterpress type expanded dramatically in 1997 following the purchase by Celia and Alan of a collection of nineteenth century wood-letter alphabet and title blocks from Wrington, near Bristol.

The two exhibitions at Advanced Graphics London have been overviews of the previous decades and have carried us through the complex, wordy, London-centric 'Broadside' series (1 - 10) to the deliciously blocked, highly textured, vividly coloured recent works. The hand-printed images, in tiny editions on fine paper, link the two meanings of graphics by being simultaneously related to both design and fine art printmaking.

As well as notable commissions for The Guardian newspaper, Borough Market and Clarks shoes Alan completed a set of cards for the Tate Gallery in 2010 and was commissioned to make the poster for the Alan Bennet play 'Allelujah!'.

Alan Kitching has two sons and lives and works in London

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Alan Kitching & Celia Stothard: The Typography Workshop  
'Twenty Years of New Letterpress Prints', Advanced Graphics London
- 2010 - 19 The London Original Print Fair, The Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2010 - 20 London Art Fair, Islington
- 2011 - 12 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy of Arts, London (2011 invited by Chris Orr RA)
- 2011 - 18 IFPDA Print Fair, Park Avenue Armory, New York
- 2012 Clerkenwell Design Week, Milliken  
'Fit', Lethaby Gallery, Central St Martins College of Art, London  
Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy of Arts, London  
'Mr Kitching's London', Advanced Graphics London  
'Because', Wolff Olins, London
- 2013 'Prints from Advanced Graphics', Deutsche Bank, London
- 2014 Art Workers Guild, London  
'Century: 100 Years of Type in Design', Monotype and Pentagram, New York
- 2015 'Alan Kitching: The Thames Suite', Advanced Graphics, London
- 2016 Public Art Canary Wharf, London  
Pick me Up; Graphic Arts Festival, Somerset House, London; Lettering Arts Centre, Suffolk
- 2017 'Alan Kitching: Letterpress Prints', The Coningsby Gallery, London
- 2019 'From the Other Side', Public Art project curated by Tate Modern; Bankside, London  
'Um Encontro de Impressores Tipraficos', TIPO, A Meeting of Letterpress Printers, Azores  
Chelsea Arts Club, London  
Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, invited artist, featuring the A-Z Portfolio  
'Kitching at Ditchling: The London Series' Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, East Sussex

## COMISSIONS

AOL; Borough Market; The Bridge Theatre; The British Library; Clarks Shoes; Creative Review; D&AD; Dazed & Confused; The Guardian; The National Theatre; Nokia; Penguin Books, Random House; Royal Mail; Saatchi & Saatchi; San Miguel; Scheufelen Paper; Tate Modern; The Times Newspaper; \*Wallpaper.