ANTHONY REYNOLDS GALLERY

60 Great Marlborough Street
London
W1F 7BG

Telephone +44 20 7 439 2201
Fax +44 20 7 439 1869
Email info@anthonyreynolds.com

PRESS RELEASE

IAN BREAKWELL — The Word Is — 5 June – 25 July 2003

Over 35 years, the work of **Ian Breakwell** has emerged and re-emerged with a dogged determination and with a power and originality that has consistently pre-empted and outfoxed expectations.

The interdependency of image and text has been a constant thematic background to **Breakwell**'s work but no other artist has pursued this with such rigour and invention, across more media, with such incisive humour or such piercing insight into the surreality of the everyday. Painting, drawing, sculpture, performance, installation, photography, film, video, television, publications – all have been used to communicate the ideas of this remarkable artist.

Two major works form the core of this exhibition. **UNWORD** is a ground-breaking film, made with Mike Leggett in 1969/70. Based on performances that took place in London (ICA), Bristol and Swansea, it is an extraordinary amalgam of text, performance, sculpture, radio and projection, all filmed and re-filmed to make a brilliant cinematic collage of sound and image. In the history of artist performance and artist film, it is a truly important work. This will be the first time **UNWORD** has been seen for over thirty years.

The second major work in the exhibition dates from 2001. **A Spinal Reading of Ulysses** consists of eighteen panels, corresponding to the eighteen chapters of Joyce's masterwork. To make these, **Breakwell** has used a formal device to bridge the spine of the novel and regroup phrases into visual verses, subversively evocative. How much sense can no-sense make? The coloured texts, corresponding to the colours of *Ulysses*, appear over the monochrome image of an 19th century anatomical model of a human torso which turns, frame by frame, under the sensual, constructed language. Body, image, history, text, creativity, each at the service of the other.

A selection of other recent works – drawing, collage, photography and print – will be exhibited also.

Breakwell has had over fifty solo exhibitions worldwide in the last 35 years. He is represented in many museum collections. A major video installation was acquired by Tate last year.

FOR IMAGES AND FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JANE BHOYROO AT THE GALLERY