

# VIVIENNE ROBERTS PROJECTS

## PRESS RELEASE

**Vivienne Roberts Projects is pleased to present:**

**"ART IS LIKE LOVE"**

**- A Solo Exhibition by Bob and Roberta Smith RA, OBE**

[LONDON, Date] – Vivienne Roberts Projects is thrilled to unveil "ART IS LIKE LOVE," a solo exhibition featuring recent works by the distinguished British contemporary artist Bob and Roberta Smith RA, OBE. This captivating showcase will be held at The Bindery, 53 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN, from February 9 to March 28, 2024.

### **About the Artist:**

Bob and Roberta Smith, AKA Patrick Brill, stands as a luminary in the British contemporary art scene. Renowned as an artist, activist, writer, broadcaster, musician, and a fervent advocate for art education, Smith is a Royal Academician and was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2017 for his outstanding contributions to art.

### **Exploring Diverse Mediums:**

Smith's artistic practice spans a diverse array of mediums, including film, radio, documentary, writing, and music. As the frontman of The Apathy Band, an experimental spoken word ensemble featuring his wife, artist Jessica Voorsanger, Smith leads an innovative and experimental exploration of creative expression.

### **The Thamesmead Codex:**

A testament to Smith's commitment to inclusivity and narrative storytelling, "ART IS LIKE LOVE" acknowledges one of Smith's remarkable projects – the Thamesmead Codex. Commissioned by Tate and the Peabody Trust, this initiative translates the stories of Thamesmead residents into painted placards, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. Currently showcased at Tate Modern until May 2024, the Thamesmead Codex stands as a profound representation of Smith's dedication to inclusivity.

### **Reimagining JMW Turner:**

"ART IS LIKE LOVE" offers a profound exploration of creativity and love, featuring Bob and Roberta Smith's unique vision that reimagines the personality of JMW Turner and delves into the fascinating world of other captivating figures. The exhibition includes Smith's new sculpture of JMW Turner, adorned with a text challenging popular perceptions of the artist and asserting Turner as a radical and political figure.

### **The George Cleghorn Interview:**

Before Covid 19, Petworth House National Trust had commissioned Bob and Roberta Smith to realise a work relating to Turner. The project was cancelled due to Covid, but now for the first time we are presenting a painting 'The George Cleghorn Interview' which comprises a collaboration between the renowned saxophonist and Bob and Roberta Smith inspired by JMW Turner. In this work Cleghorn compares Turner's depiction of light at Petworth with John Coltrane's polyphonic soundscapes such as 'A Love Supreme'. Cleghorn, the son of a Windrush generation migrant to the UK, also explains his inspiring and enriching journey to discover the saxophone.

### **"ART IS LIKE LOVE" – Symbolizing a Profound Connection:**

The exhibition's title, "ART IS LIKE LOVE," encapsulates romantic and friendship bonds, symbolising a profound and expansive love that extends to responsibility and care for the environment. The seemingly simple statement prompts the audience to contemplate the profound dimensions of its meaning.

### **Exploring the Connection Between Art and Love:**

In a world marked by violence and recurring warfare, "ART IS LIKE LOVE" explores the missing element identified as love. Embracing a genuine love for neighbors, transcending borders and differences, becomes a unifying force. The exhibition posits that fostering love can eliminate divisions among people, emphasizing our shared humanity.

### **Transformative Power of Art and Love:**

The connection between art and love is explored, asserting that art, despite potentially depicting violent imagery, is fundamentally peaceful and anti-war. The expanded interpretation underscores the potential for art and love to act

as transformative forces in a world plagued by violence and division, promoting unity, understanding, and a shared commitment to peace.

### **"ART IS LIKE LOVE BETWEEN US ALL" – A Unifying Message:**

A heart filled with love becomes incapable of cruelty, destructiveness, and divisiveness. Restoring the brokenness of the world through art, akin to the unifying glue of love, reinforces the rallying cry of "ART IS LIKE LOVE BETWEEN US ALL." This resonates with Smith's mission to champion arts education and inclusivity, highlighting the profound impact that love and creativity can have on the world.

### **About Vivienne Roberts Projects**

Vivienne Roberts Projects is dedicated to showcasing groundbreaking contemporary art that pushes boundaries and sparks conversations. With a commitment to fostering artistic dialogue, the gallery aims to connect artists with diverse audiences and create memorable and transformative experiences.

### **Event Details:**

- **Title:** ART IS LIKE LOVE – A Solo Exhibition by Bob and Roberta Smith RA, OBE
- **Dates:** 9 February - 28 March, 2024
- **Location:** The Bindery, 53 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN

For press inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact:

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*Images and additional information are available upon request.*

## **Social Media**

<https://www.instagram.com/vivienne.roberts.projects/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VRobertsProjects>

[#thamesmeadcodex](#)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/bob-and-roberta-smith-thamesmead-codex>

## **Vivienne Roberts Projects**

The Bindery, 53 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN

[viviennerobertsprojects.com](http://viviennerobertsprojects.com)

Instagram: [vivienne.roberts.projects](#)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About The Bindery

The Bindery, a former bookbinding business, is built within a 1930's Art Déco building, The building has been designed by architects Piercy & Company, and the landscaping on the terrace and the roof by Andy Sturgeon. Guided by Carbon Intelligence, sustainability has been central to this project. The Bindery is owned by Dorrington Plc. Classical building features are combined with flawless levels of comfort, outstanding attention to detail and the impeccable credentials of sustainability and wellness.

<https://thebinderyec1.com/>