

Press Release

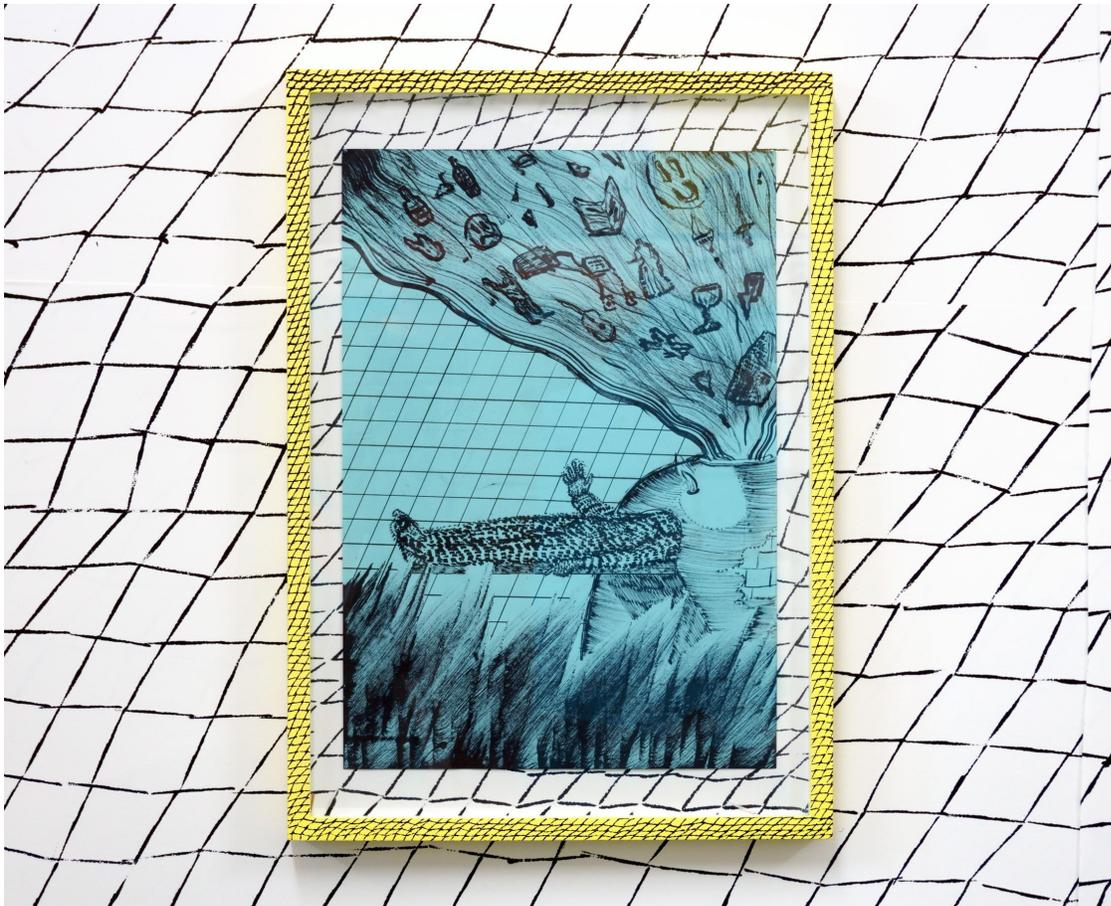
Adam Shield, *Amp Envelope*

The Showroom, London

Opening Tuesday 19 July, 6.30-8.30pm

Continues Wednesday 20 July-Saturday 17 September 2022

Open Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm



Adam Shield, *Scanner (II)*, collage: ink on paper with painted frame, 2022.
Courtesy of the artist.

The Showroom presents *Amp Envelope*, the first solo exhibition in London by artist **Adam Shield**.

Over the past year Shield has been working on a new body of work, opening up drawing and collage as a means of exploring interior worlds; with imagery encompassing references distilled from post-apocalyptic science fiction writing, to dystopian

dream projectors, seventeenth century alchemy and everyday encounters with political, societal and economic structures.

Shield's recurring motif of a hand-painted grid will wrap around the facade of The Showroom building as the framework for a new collaborative mural; the third iteration of *The Showroom Mural Commission*. Inside the gallery space Shield will create a spatial collage for audiences to inhabit; an all-encompassing environment further exploring the expansive potential of drawing and print.

Building upon a period of collaborative research in the local neighbourhood, Church Street Library & histories of radical community print groups, an in-situ printmaking workshop in the exhibition space will create the context for a programme of drawing, print and poster-making sessions running on weekends throughout the exhibition, from 19 July to 17 September 2022.

Using drawing as a tool for communication and opening up spaces for critical reflection at times of rapid change, where Church Street is in the midst of major long-term redevelopment, Shield will collaborate with community groups and individuals from The Showroom neighbourhood, leading to the creation of posters of varying scales as an accumulating collage enveloping The Showroom facade. Workshops will invite contributors to amplify their voices; revealing drawing, printmaking and collage as accessible platforms for reflection upon shared experiences and a means for personal expression to be collectively experienced by all.

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The Showroom is supported using public funding by **Arts Council England**

The Showroom Mural Commission - Adam Shield: *Amp Envelope*, 2022 is generously supported by the **Abbey Harris Mural Fund**

Notes to Editors

About The Showroom

The Showroom is a contemporary art space focused on collaborative approaches to cultural production within their locality and beyond. They commission and produce art and discourse; providing an engaging programme that challenges what art can be and do for a wide range of audiences, including art professionals and the local community. The Showroom was established in 1983 and in 2023 celebrates forty years as a pivotal force in the development of contemporary art practice.

Through major commissions and smaller projects, The Showroom works with artists and other practitioners who have not previously had significant exposure in London, often introducing international artists to London, and working in partnership with other individuals and organisations within their networks, both at home and abroad. They also work closely with the local community, and have developed strong, long-term relationships with local groups and individuals who they bring together to work in partnership with artists on specific projects and commissions, which feed into the programme as a whole.

www.theshowroom.org

About The Showroom Mural Commission:

The Showroom Mural Commission is a unique project for artists to activate The Showroom's emblematic facade.

For the third iteration of *The Showroom Mural Commission*, which will be in-situ for one year from July 2022-July 2023, Shield's recurring motif of a hand-painted grid will wrap around the facade of The Showroom, creating the framework for a new collaborative mural. Posters selected from public workshops run by Shield at The Showroom throughout July, August and September 2022 will be pasted onto the framework of the mural; building up an evolving public collage of imagery over time.

About Adam Shield:

Adam Shield (b. 1988, Newcastle Upon Tyne) lives and works in London. He studied at the Royal Academy Schools (2014-17) and BA Fine Art at Newcastle University (2007-11).

Selected recent exhibitions include *BLAST BEAT*, with artist Thomas Whittle as *Long Distance Press* (LDP), Priestman Gallery, Sunderland, 2021; *Drawing Biennale*, Drawing Room, London, 2021; *Dark Silo*, Thames Side Studios Gallery, London, 2020; *A Very Long Wait*, Newchild Gallery, Antwerp, 2020; *Greetings*, LDP, Mauve Gallery, Vienna, 2019; *Expo Dream Leech*, Drawing Room, London, 2019; *IMAGE DRUM*, LDP, Royal Academy of Art, London, 2019; *Terraforms*, Kristian Day Gallery, London, 2018; *Chumming*, The Pipe Factory, Glasgow International, 2018; *Hands Roots*, Hawkins, London 2018; *Drop Shot*, LDP, Fetes College, Edinburgh, 2017; *Bearing Liability*, Strange Cargo Gallery, Folkestone, 2017; *RA Schools Degree Show*, Burlington House, London, 2017; *Premiums: Interim Projects*, Royal Academy of Art, London, 2016; *Let's Get Inside Everything*, Milma, London, 2016; and *RIFF*, Baltic 39, Newcastle Upon Tyne, 2014.

Shield has co-curated exhibitions including *Greetings*, Mauve Gallery, Vienna, 2019; *Drop Shot*, Monomatic, Edinburgh, 2018; *Chumming*, The Pipe Factory, Glasgow for Glasgow International 2018 and *IMAGE DRUM* at The Royal Academy of Art, London, 2019.

Since 2013 Shield has been co-running **Long Distance Press** (LDP) with artist **Thomas Whittle**. Working between Glasgow, Newcastle, London and Edinburgh, LDP started as a postal art project that quickly turned into collaborative works, publications and exhibitions. Through these Shield and Whittle continue to explore research, drawing and works on paper that often live at the unseen edges of an artists' practice. LDP works closely with artists to produce new artworks, artist books and editions employing a range of processes, paper stocks and binding methods to produce printed ephemera that is tactile, intentionally lo-fi and inky to touch. They have also shaped and delivered collaborative workshops for students at **The University of Sunderland**, **The Bartlett School of Architecture - UCL**, **Fettes College**, Edinburgh and **Goldsmiths, University of London**.

adamshield.com // longdistancepress.com

In 2024 **LDP** will develop a new public artwork with **The Showroom** as part of the programme of public art commissions at **Paddington Square**. The programme sees the creation of a new series of collaborative murals at Tanner Lane, situated between Paddington Square and St Mary's Hospital. These commissioned murals will each be in-situ for one year at a time, providing a rotational site for temporary public artworks, each responding to the overarching theme of the politics of care. Artist **Kathrin Böhm** launches the series in 2022-23, followed by **Long Distance Press** (Adam Shield and Thomas Whittle) in 2023-24 and **Rhea Dillon** in 2024-25. Created through collaborative processes, the cycle of public commissions creates a new context for The Showroom's programme in Paddington, allowing a wide audience of visitors, workers and local residents to enjoy and engage with contemporary art practice.

<https://www.thisispaddington.com/article/paddington-square-announces-major-public-art-programme>

Key dates:

- Tuesday 19 July 2022, 6.30-8.30pm: Opening of **Adam Shield**, *AMP Envelope* at The Showroom.

The base of the mural will be complete at this point, and Shield's distinctive grid will act as a layout device to locate, position and scale collaboratively produced posters over the summer months.

- Wednesday 20 July - Saturday 17 September 2022: exhibition continues. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm. Free entry.

- A series of free workshops led by Adam Shield will be held throughout the exhibition on Saturdays, 23 & 30 July; 6 & 13 August, 11am-4pm. Further dates in August & September will be announced. Places will be limited. To book email **Lily Hall**, Curator, The Showroom at welcome@theshowroom.org

Posters will be developed throughout the workshops using drawing, collage and Risograph print techniques. No prior experience required. Posters selected to become part of the mural will then be printed onto blue-backed paper, to be pasted onto the framework of the exterior mural in an evolving public collage of imagery over time.

- There will be on-going, periodical refreshes of the mural posters over the course of the year through to July 2023.

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