

THE OUTSIDERS

Press Release

The Outsiders Presents the Artwork of Emory Douglas

18th August – 10th September 2011

The Outsiders is proud to present an exhibition showcasing the works of revolutionary artist Emory Douglas.

Emory Douglas is a pivotal figure in the development of political graphic art. Appointed 'Minister for Culture' for the Black Panthers in 1967, he became in-house illustrator for the quasi-revolutionary civil rights movement's eponymous newspaper.

Douglas' instantly recognisable graphics filled the incendiary journal and would form its back page, a 'cut out and paste up' propaganda poster.



A cornerstone of the Black Panthers until their dissolution in the early 1980s, Douglas was one of the first agitators to use the visual language of the right wing to express the ideas of the left. His powerful pieces swapped hand-wringing for aggression and victim status for insurgency. Using a strong but consistent, simple yet brutal visual style Douglas' artwork defined the Black Panther's pride, resourcefulness and charisma. The illustrations' accompanying battle cries, including 'all power to the people', 'in revolution one wins and one dies' and 'seize the times', entered the lexicon of a generation.

In and out of youth detention as a teen, Douglas kept busy working in the print shop of Ontario's Youth Training School. Encouraged to draw by social workers, he went on to study commercial art at San Francisco's community college, where he learned to use collage and what would today be called 'found media' to create high-impact pieces using minimal time and money.

Employing a 'DiY' ethos to make potent, populist imagery re-enforced by slogans is a defining characteristic of many of today's heralded street artists. The Outsiders gallery group is also home to a massed collection of political art from throughout the modern era, including the Situationists' 'Mai 68' posters. For these reasons Emory Douglas' art makes a proud and worthwhile addition to our roster.

Now in his 60s, Emory will host a number of live events around the exhibition including a personal audience, discussion group and book signing. Come and witness how the screen print can be mightier than the AK47.

The Outsiders Presents the Artwork of Emory Douglas | The Outsiders | London | Soho | W1D

The Outsiders Galleries, Newcastle and London

Re-launching the first ever Lazarides gallery spaces under a new heading in July 2010, The Outsiders sells affordable originals, prints, collectibles and books from the Lazarides stable of artists and more. Each of the galleries features project spaces showcasing works from new and emerging talents, as well as offering established Lazarides artists a space to present experimental shows. Space is also given over to an ambitious release schedule of editioned works. These small run editions, hand finished prints, and works on paper are produced in our own Wapping studio, Execution Dock. The book *Outsiders* is out now published by Thames & Hudson and the organisation is featured in Oscar-nominated documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. Incorporating the online store www.theoutsiders.net and the spaces on London's Greek Street and in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, The Outsiders welcomes over ten thousand visitors annually.

www.theoutsiders.net

Lazarides

Lazarides Inc is one of the world's most influential galleries, with three permanent spaces and extensive high profile off-site activity. The group is dedicated to emerging international artists who defy categorisation, often existing outside of conventional artistic career structures. This vision has resonated with the general public and major collectors alike. Founded in 2006 by Steve Lazarides, the group represents some of the most exciting and innovative artists working today including Antony Micallef, David Choe, JR, Vhils, Faile, Jonathan Yeo, Charlie Isoe, Conor Harrington, Ian Francis, Stanley Donwood, 3D, Invader, Zevs, Mode 2, Todd James/Reas, Blu, Paul Insect and BAST.

www.lazinc.com