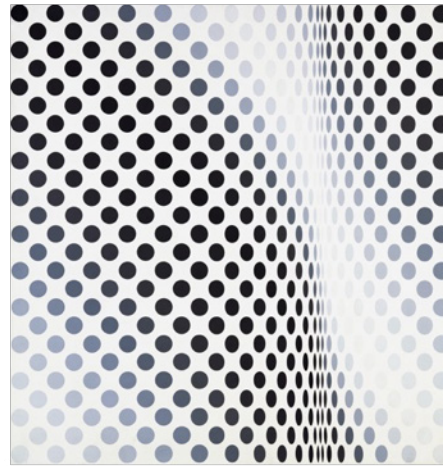




© Robert Fraser's Groovy Arts Club Band, special edition double vinyl album, artwork by Derek Boshier.



Bridget Riley, Pause, 1964, Emulsion on Board, 112 x 107 cm.
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Robert Fraser's Groovy Arts Club Band

Clive Barker, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Peter Blake, Derek Boshier, Brian Clarke, Jim Dine, Jean Dubuffet, Richard Hamilton, Keith Haring, Jann Haworth, Bridget Riley, Ed Ruscha, Colin Self

Private View & Vinyl Launch: 10th January 2019, 6–8pm

Tuesday Talk: 5th February 2019, 6–8pm

Exhibition Dates: 11th January–23rd February 2019

#GroovyBob

Gazelli Art House presents Robert Fraser's Groovy Arts Club Band celebrating the esteemed London gallerist Robert Fraser (1937-1986) curated by Mila Askarova and David G.A. Stephenson.

This exciting group exhibition brings together thirteen artists who Fraser championed during his time along with other members of the pop art movement. The exhibition title takes inspiration from Harriet Vyrer's oral history of Robert Fraser entitled Groovy Bob, one of the key influencers and trendsetters in the 1960s when pop culture, music and art collided. To accompany the exhibition, Gazelli Art House in collaboration with The Arts Club will launch an eponym double-vinyl album containing fourteen songs in tribute to Fraser, a.k.a. Groovy Bob. The exhibition together with the songs emphasise the relationship between music and art, and to celebrate Fraser's artists' continued relevance and influence.

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Fraser led a glamorous life and embodied the cultural movement of the 'Swinging Sixties'. He was a high profile and flamboyant bridge between the worlds of contemporary art and rock music, bringing together artists, writers, filmmakers, celebrities and rock stars, most prominently The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. His gallery became a focal point for modern art in Britain. Through his exhibitions, he helped to launch and promote the work of many important new British and American artists, introducing Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol and emerging Pop Art movement to the London art scene. Fraser is perhaps best known for being the artistic director of The Beatles' Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover, commissioning Peter Blake and Jann Haworth to create the artwork.

Robert Fraser's Groovy Arts Club Band album has been written, performed and produced by David G.A. Stephenson and Josh Stapleton. They have collaborated with Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth of Talking Heads and Tom Tom Club along with Richard Bell of Blue Aeroplanes and Scalaland. Each song is original and celebrates an artist from the exhibition, as well as Fraser himself:

- I Want To Hang Out With Ed Ruscha (Ed Ruscha)
- From Sir With Love (Sir Peter Blake)
- Slip It To Me (Richard Hamilton)
- An Englishman In LA (Derek Boshier)
- Samo (Jean-Michel Basquiat)
- Optical Tactical (Bridget Riley)
- Dubuffet Or Not Dubuffet (Jean Dubuffet)
- Dangerous Visions Of Brian Clarke (Brian Clarke)
- Jim Dine's Toolbox (Jim Dine)
- SLC Pepper And The Sundance Kid (Jann Haworth)
- Clive Barker With His Midas Touch (Clive Barker)
- Keith Haring's Pop Shop (Keith Haring)
- Leopardskin Nuclear Bomber (Colin Self)

The gatefold sleeves of the special edition vinyl have been designed & created by painter Derek Boshier, who produced album sleeves for David Bowie, including Lodger and Let's Dance.

As David G.A. Stephenson says: "The enthusiastic response to my first art-song 'I Want To Hang Out With Ed Ruscha' led me to write and record a series of songs celebrating Ruscha's contemporaries on both sides of the Atlantic, all of whom, I eventually discovered, were united in having been exhibited by the extraordinary Robert Fraser".

"Building on the gallery's historic exhibitions, we are delighted to revisit the 1960s era following our 2016 show, This is Today. This time, we are celebrating Fraser's legacy with an exhibition dedicated to the pop art and the artists he championed. Bringing the rock 'n' roll glamour to the gallery space, these works on display, along with the special edition vinyl album, will transport the viewer back to the swinging sixties, full of charisma and excitement" explains Mila Askarova.

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Notes to editors:

- This exhibition is a continuation of Gazelli Art House's 2016 *This is Today* show that was held at the London gallery, celebrating the 60th anniversary of *This is Tomorrow* exhibition at Whitechapel Gallery, London. Exhibiting artists included: Archigram, Derek Boshier, Bernard Cohen, Magda Cordell McHale, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, John Plumb, Richard Smith and Ian Stephenson. Every year Gazelli Art House hosts historic exhibitions, revisiting movements that are relevant to practices of contemporary artists.
- The double-edition vinyl is exclusively available to purchase from the gallery and through Gazelli Art House online shop.
- The release of 100 white helium-filled balloons will mark the opening as a tribute to the anniversary of *You Are Here* exhibition opening featuring John Lennon and Yoko Ono, which took place at the Robert Fraser Gallery forty years ago. On that occasion Fraser had 365 white balloons released over London.
- After the exhibition and vinyl opening, a performance of songs from the album by David Stephenson, Josh Stapleton & Friends will be held at The Arts Club, exclusively for guests.

About Gazelli Art House

Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. The gallery was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan, where it originally held exhibitions with local artists. Mila Askarova, Founding Director, opened a permanent space on Dover Street in 2012 following a series of conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London. The same year, Gazelli Art House launched its Window Project, a unique opportunity for MA and post-graduate students to expose a body of their work. Three times a year, the gallery offers an allocated space with street frontage as well as the windows of the first floor to display the works. In 2015, the gallery launched Gazell.io, a monthly online residency for digital artworks, and Enter Through The Headset, an annual VR show. The Window Project, Gazell.io and Enter Through The Headset highlight the gallery's on-going commitment to supporting artists across different mediums.

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For updates follow us on social media:

[@gazelliarthouse](https://www.instagram.com/gazelliarthouse)

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About The Arts Club:

Since its foundation in 1863, and with Sir Peter Blake as its president, The Arts Club has gained international recognition as the London hub for artists, musicians, writers and creatives. The Club has a rich and expanding collection of contemporary art and a carefully curated exhibition and events programme which is attentive to international trends while maintaining a focus on British artists.

In the course of its existence, the Club has included amongst its members many outstanding figures in the history of art, literature and science. With an extensive art programme, the Club offers rotating exhibitions and regular talks which have featured many artists, directors of institutions and writers including Hans Ulrich Obrist, Nicholas Cullinan, Gregor Muir, Frances Morris, Ralph Rugoff, Wolfgang Tillmans and Jeremy Deller among others.

The Arts Club
40 Dover Street, W1S 4NP London