

CEDAR LEWISOHN | BIRTHDAY DRINKS

25 June – 2 August 2024



The Union Club is excited to announce our new summer exhibition by British artist, curator, and writer, Cedar Lewisohn. Titled *Birthday Drinks*, exhibition highlights include a selection of woodcut prints and images reproduced from Lewisohn's project *The Marduk Prophecy*, which formed the basis of his acclaimed comic book published in 2020.

Described by The Guardian as 'brutal and delicate' Lewisohn's imagery typically depicts figures from ancient African and Mesopotamian civilisations re-animated and brought bang up to date within contemporary urban settings. Motifs such as hieroglyphics lifted from the Benin Bronzes, masonic symbolism, and UK tower blocks are drawn together into abstract narratives that raise questions around race, agency, and legacy. The latter, most poignantly, about the colonial circumstances under which cultural assets were acquired by our national museums, remains a contentious topic that Lewisohn has avidly researched for over a decade.

Whether it be public art projects at the Southbank Centre, or working with Tunisian street artists in Milan, storytelling remains the central tenet of Lewisohn's curatorial pre-occupations and artistic practice.

The private view for *Birthday Drinks* aptly coincides with Cedar Lewisohn's birthday on Monday 24 June. Please RSVP to join us for this happy occasion and we invite to bring a homemade birthday card for display on the night.

All works are for sale, as are a selection of small prints available to view on request.

Further information

Private View: Monday 24 June | 6.30 – 9.00pm / RSVP essential to roz@unionclub.co.uk

Open: Tuesday - Friday | 10 am – 5 pm | 25 June to 2 August 2024

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cedarlewisohn.com / [@cedarlewisohn](https://www.instagram.com/cedarlewisohn) | www.unionclub.co.uk / [@theunionclub](https://www.instagram.com/theunionclub)

About the artist

Cedar Lewisohn (b. London, 24 June 1977) trained as a sculptor at Camberwell School of Art, and was resident artist at the Jan Van Eyck Academie, Maastricht.

Lewisohn has worked on numerous projects for institutions such as Tate Britain, Tate Modern, and the British Council. He curated the landmark *Street Art* exhibition at Tate Modern (2008) and the Museum of London's *Dub London* project (2019). In 2020 he was appointed curator of Site Design at the Southbank Centre, London.

He has also authored three books (*Street Art*, Tate 2008, *Abstract Graffiti*, Merrell, 2011, *The Marduk Prophecy*, Slimvolume, 2020), and edited a number of publications. His art work is held in many collections and has been exhibited nationally and internationally for over twenty years.

Solo exhibitions include: *The Thousand Year Kingdom*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2021); and *Patois Banton*, Bonington Gallery, Nottingham (2023). Selected projects and group shows have been presented at Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht (2015); Joey Ramone, Rotterdam (2016); VOLUME Book Fair at ArtSpace Sydney (2015); Exeter Phoenix, Exeter (2017); *The Wisdom Man* at Paul Stolper, London (2023); and the critically acclaimed *UNTITLED: Art on the conditions of our time*, Kettles Yard, Cambridge (2021), where his work was singled out by The Guardian as "the highlight of the exhibition".

This year, Lewisohn returns to Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, to curate an exhibition by the French Tunisian artist eL Seed, and he will work on the Southbank Centre's *You Belong Here* summer programme and the *Winter Light* project.