



#skipgallery

UPGRADE AT SKIP GALLERY

Richard Woods abandons his house in Hoxton Square

1–30 June

*'Shaping and altering our immediate surroundings is
a fundamental part of being alive.'*

– Richard Woods



Richard Woods. Photo by Ali Tollervey.

When the **London Festival of Architecture** kicks off on 1 June, artist **Richard Woods** will be trashing a house. Throughout the 30 days of the festival, visitors to **Hoxton Square** will be met with the latest occupant of the roving art space (and skip) **SKIP Gallery**: Richard Wood's '**Upgrade**' – a luridly colourful, large-scale model home, casually abandoned in a roadside skip.

'Upgrade' has its roots in Woods' contribution to the **2017 Folkestone Triennial**, when his 'Holiday Home' project saw the construction of six brightly hued bungalows appearing around the coastal town – a playful but penetrating commentary on the tensions between second-home ownership and national housing shortages.

Reinvented for a new urban context, Woods' work gains new meaning by being displayed in the heart of Hoxton – an area which has undergone a rapid and radical process of gentrification in the last two decades – either a benefit or a blight to the neighbourhood, depending on whom you ask.



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Catherine Borowski, Richard Woods and Lee Baker. Photo by Ali Tollervey.

'As a student at the Slade School, I spent many hours walking the areas north of King's Cross. I would look for skips containing plywood that I could drag back to Gower Street Studios and make into sculpture. Many of these skips contained kitchens or three-piece suites. By proposing that a whole house could be cast aside and put into a skip I am highlighting and exaggerating this process of gentrification.'

– Richard Woods

The visually striking sculpture doesn't seek to make an argument on either side of the debate, but to invite SKIP visitors to engage with the cycle of change within the city, and to consider the gradual transitions that occur to its fabric over time – socially, architecturally and economically. As part of London Festival of Architecture, which this year explores the theme of 'identity', 'Upgrade' shines a spotlight on the ever-changing character of London's neighbourhoods.



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Richard Woods is the latest in a growing line of high-profile artists exhibiting with SKIP Gallery, which began with David Shrigley in June 2017, and has since seen contributions from **Gavin Turk**, **Ben Eine** and Milan football club **AS Velasca**. Founded in 2016 by artists **Catherine Borowski** and **Lee Baker**, the curators of 'Upgrade', SKIP Gallery has grown from being a whimsical one-off to an evolving international artistic collaboration, and an example of how the impact and meaning of an artwork can be influenced by its setting. The skip becomes an integral part of the work.

In conjunction with the exhibition, SKIP Gallery is releasing a limited edition of **50 silkscreen prints** signed by Woods, priced at £160 (inc p+p) and available to purchase from Private Press as of Thursday 31 May.

'With every project that SKIP Gallery completes, the stronger and more profound its statement will become. It is great to be a small part of that process.'

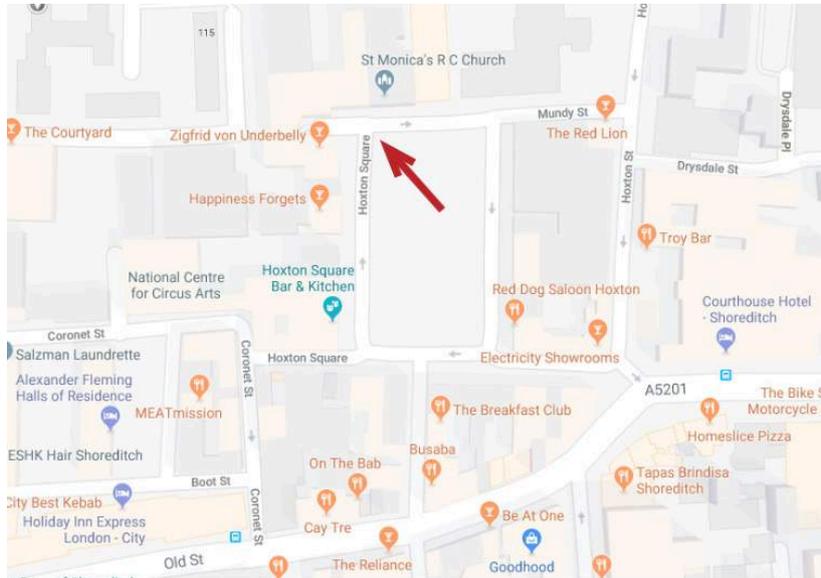
– Richard Woods



Catherine Borowski, Richard Woods and Lee Baker. Photo by Ali Tollervey.



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The site of 'Upgrade', Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB.

Notes to editors

Upgrade

Dates 1–30 June

Location Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB

About SKIP Gallery

In 2016, London-based artists Catherine Borowski and Lee Baker re-conceived the idea of the exhibition space, presenting the London public with an ongoing series of collaborative, site-specific artworks housed in skips in everyday public locations. With their associations of mundanity, disposal and renovation, skips are a ubiquitous but frequently overlooked reminder of the throw-away culture of the city, lending a playfully profound irony to the exhibition of artwork within them. Since then, Borowski and Baker have collaborated with some of the biggest names in contemporary art, including David Shrigley (Look At This, June 2017), Gavin Turk (Transubstantiation, November 2017) and Ben Eine, as well as 'the world's most artistic football club' AS Velasca in Milan. Their mobility allows SKIP Gallery to exhibit anywhere there is a parking space, bringing unexpected eruptions of art into the everyday urban landscape, anywhere in the world. Since its beginnings, the gallery has become more than a mobile exhibition space; it is a continuous, transitioning artwork in itself, connecting artists around the world through an ongoing programme of collaboration.

skipgallery.com

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About Richard Woods

Trained as a sculptor at the Slade School of Art, Richard Woods has become renowned for his architectural interventions with the surfaces of existing structures, the vibrant colours and graphic geometries of his work, and the playful pointed commentary it makes on the culture of DIY and urban improvement. Woods' commissions include the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea, Comme des Garçons' flagship store in Osaka, and Cary Grant's former home in LA, now owned by art dealer Jefferey Deitch. His works held in worldwide collections including the Saatchi Collection, Arts Council England, the British Museum, the V& A, and MoMA.

richardwoodsstudio.com

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About the London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture is the world's largest annual architecture festival, with a mission to support architectural talent in London, enthuse and engage with the public, and find new ways to look at the city. Held on 1–30 June 2018, it will be exploring the theme 'identity' through a rich programme of events across London that celebrates the city as a global architectural hub, and promotes positive change to its public realm. The programme is delivered by a diverse mix of architecture and design practices and practitioners, cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others.
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For more information about Upgrade and Skip Gallery, please contact Dorothy Bourne on 020 3735 5855 or at dorothy@zetteler.co.uk.
