



Holy Motor

Achill Redo

Not on display

Title/Description: Holy Motor

Artist/Maker: Achill Redo (Anthony Hill)

Born: 1990

Object Type: Relief

Materials: Mixed Media

Accession Number: 31536

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Britain, England, Europe

Credit Line: Bequeathed by Joyce and Michael Morris, 2014

An eclectic array of found materials, including a sliding door lock, a plastic cog and industrial off-cuts, have been carefully arranged in *Holy Motor* to create new relationships between their different surfaces, tones and forms. *Holy Motor* is attributed to Achill Redo, an alias created by the artist Anthony Hill in 1973.

Achill Redo exhibited collages and assemblages from the 1980s onwards, inspired by a longstanding interest in Dada and Surrealism. [1] This established a distinction between these works and the abstract geometric constructed reliefs and prints for which Hill was well known. However, he recognised them as related strands of his expansive creative practice:

‘If I am introduced to someone as being both a Dadaist and Constructivist I don’t have any objections. But making constructivist type works doesn’t mean that I am a signatory or member of any constructivist outfit. Likewise with Dada: I don’t do Redos in order to get labelled Dada, nor are Redos done in the shadow of Dada. Redos are Formalist, although in a different way from the constructive works I make.’ [2]

Michael Morris acquired *Holy Motor* in 1993. The following year, Redo exhibited a selection of related works at the Mayor Gallery in London. In his catalogue essay for the exhibition, the critic David Sylvester highlighted the shared emphasis on composition and order in Redo and Hill’s work:

‘Despite the randomness with which the various elements in a given work seem chosen and brought together, despite their inconsistency, despite the air of improvisation with which they seem to have been put together, the total structure seems locked together, inevitably and immovably. As [Lawrence] Alloway said of Hill [in 1958]: “His reliefs are highly-wrought objects of great order”.’ [3]

Lisa Newby, March 2021

[1] Achill Redo exhibited in London at the Knoedler (Kasmin) Gallery in 1980, at Angela Flowers

Gallery in 1983 and 1989, and at the Mayor Gallery in 1994.

[2] Achill Redo, *Redo Times: Francisaviour Redo's Show Botch the Wordie*, exh. cat. (London: Angela Flowers Gallery, 1989), pp.7-8.

[3] David Sylvester, 'Mandarin and Demotic' in *Achill Redo: Accretions 1990-1994*, The Mayor Gallery, London 14 April - 27 May 1994, exhibition catalogue, unpaginated. For installation images of this exhibition, see [ACHILL REDO | 14 April - 27 May 1994 | The Mayor Gallery](#)

Provenance

In October 1984, the University of East Anglia accepted a planned bequest from Joyce and Michael Morris (UEA Alumni). Michael died in 2009 and Joyce in December 2014 when the couple's wishes were implemented.
