

# Victoria Miro Gallery

## Press Release

### **Alex Hartley: Case Studies**

28 March – 12 May 2001

Private View, Tuesday 27 March from 6pm to 8pm

**“Visionary architecture of a new kind.” Sarah Kent, Art Critic, Time Out**

*Case Studies* is an exhibition of new work by the British artist **Alex Hartley**. Presented in the upper space of the new **Victoria Miro Gallery**, this is the artist's first major show in London since his solo exhibition at the Victoria Miro Gallery and *Sensation* at the **Royal Academy of Art** in 1997. Last year he was the first artist to be awarded the prestigious *Goodwood Sculpture Commission*, for his large scale work *Pavilion*.

**Alex Hartley** is primarily known for his glass encased photographs of gallery spaces, tower blocks and fictional architectural constructions. In this exhibition he pursues his dialogue with iconic modernist architecture. The centre piece of the exhibition is *Case Study*, which is **Hartley's** most ambitious work to date. This monumental installation takes a nine-meter slice through a steel and glass building and is based on the houses of the Californian Case Study Programme started in 1945. Encased in a giant wedge shaped frame of etched glass that inhibits our view **Hartley** has created a disorientating fictional space which both perplexes and seduces the viewer.

*“I want my images to draw people in and then deny them access. I want to mystify and frustrate, making an impossible space that seems to have been teleported in like a piece of virtual reality.”* Alex Hartley.

The exhibition also includes *Randomised Double Blind*, a vibrantly coloured series of machined and polished acrylic blocks which give the illusion of containing more space than their volume allows.

Born in 1963, Alex Hartley lives and works in London. He has exhibited at, amongst others, **Louisiana Museum of Modern Art**, Humlebaek, Denmark; *The Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize*, **The Photographers' Gallery**, London; **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Sarajevo and **Ludwig Museum of Modern Art**, Vienna. His work is currently on display at the **Henry Moore Foundation**, Leeds until April and he will be exhibiting at **The National Museum of Art**, Osaka, Japan at the end of the year.

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