

**Question Centre presents**  
**Caragh Thuring**  
**Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins**

**Press release: The Century**

On its third edition, *Question Centre* is thrilled to present a series of thirteen new paintings by Caragh Thuring alongside a 1972 Thames Television footage featuring maverick snooker player Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins. On this occasion, Thuring will be showing miniature versions of her often immersive canvases, the originals dating from 2006 to 2015. These undersized fakes have been produced by professional forgers in Dafen Village, a suburb of the Chinese city of Shenzhen whose economy is fuelled, for its most part, by the production of bootlegs. Whereas Thuring employs a rich set of materials to compose her works – such as oil paint, watercolour, charcoal, gesso, graphite and pigment – their miniature counterparts are made invariably with acrylic paint – a media that is a stranger to her vocabulary – over linen. This body of work brings to the forefront notions of repetition and dualities which, via different gestures, have run through Thuring's practice for several years now. For instance, the volcano/ pyramid – and on a more basic level, the brick – is a recurrent element in her canvases; other of her paintings are inspired by compositions made by canonical art figures, such as Édouard Manet and Filippo Brunelleschi. Yet other of Thuring's works are simply *doubles*, as she sees them, one part demanding the presence of the other to exist.

Alex Higgins was a man of exceptional talent and great speed. A failed jockey – he was too heavy for the métier, most likely due to his early taste for self-indulgences of all sorts – in 1972 he became a professional snooker player and won the World Championship on his first attempt. Aged 22 at the time, for many years he held the record of being the youngest person to ever achieve such a feat. Bearing several addictions and disciplinary issues, it took him another ten years to win his second and last world title. Higgins possessed all the traits of a hero, even if a tragic one: the charisma, the flair, the wildness. A passage by David Hartrick<sup>1</sup> gives us a glimpse into his eccentricities, 'he refused to wear black, knowing he would be fined, until black was outlawed as snooker attempted to modernise, at which point Higgins immediately favoured the traditional suit with a black bowtie'. Dubbed the 'people's champion' for all these, he endured a permanent struggle between the Hurricane – fast, cheeky, virtuoso and often obnoxious – and Alex, the family man. After a life filled with glories and excesses, he died in poverty in 2010. Higgins' unique style has been an inspiration to contemporary snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan who, by turn, fascinates and intrigues Thuring. Not without reason: many aspects of the game that both Higgins and O'Sullivan have approached like few others – the tempo, the preciseness, the directness – are principles that Thuring endorses within her own artistic practice.

*Question Centre* is a nomadic platform of short-term exhibitions that draws on generational bonds among artists, making use of both conventional and unconventional art spaces. It presents fresh works by a contemporary artist alongside a piece by a practitioner from a previous generation (active or historic), conceived the year the younger one was born. Such piece may be an artwork or any other item or event that offers an insight into the year of birth of the invited artist. This 'obstruction' aims to both contextualise a present day practice within a historical perspective and play with the general obsession of the 'forever young' – omnipresent in the artistic environment – thus raising questions concerning generation and context. The platform borrows its title from James Lee Byars' *The World Question Center* (1969), exhibited on its first edition (at Supplement Gallery, London, in June 2014), together with works by Alexandre da Cunha. A second edition of the project took place at Pivô, in Sao Paulo, in January 2015, and showed Marcius Galan in relation to Antonio Dias' *The Illustration of Art: The New York Information System*, from 1972.

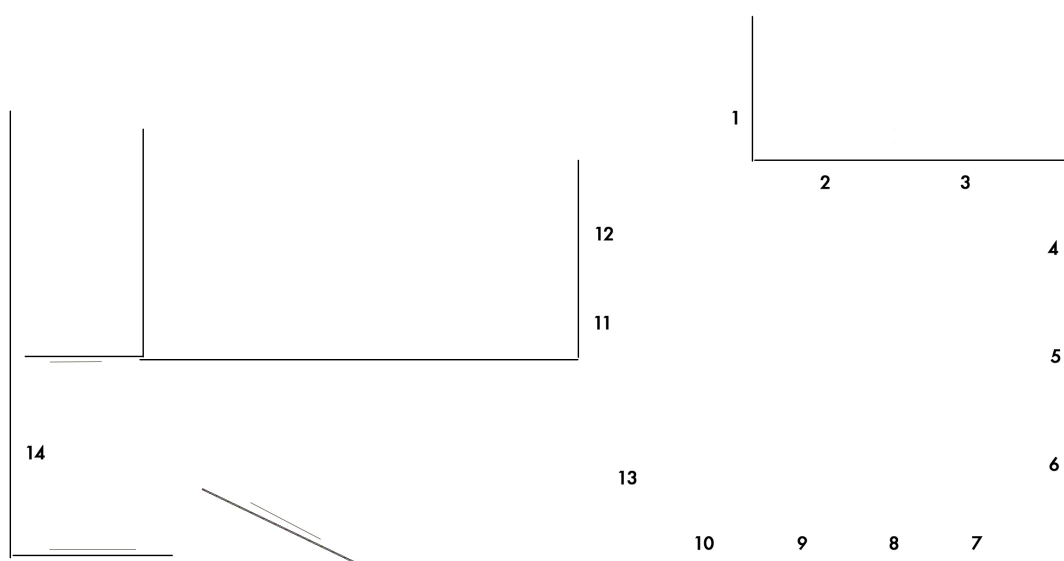
The project is developed by Maria do Carmo M. P. de Pontes.

**Caragh Thuring** (born in Brussels, 1972. Lives and works in London)  
**Alex Higgins** (born in Belfast, 1949, where he died in 2010)

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<sup>1</sup> In *How Alex Higgins rode the Hurricane to produce one of snooker's greatest breaks*. The Guardian, 25 January 2016

## Map of the exhibition



- 1 Caragh Thuring. *Ophaal Brug met Fonkelingen*, 2006, 2014. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 2 Caragh Thuring. *Soldiers of the 10th Light Dragoons*, 2006, 2014. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 3 Caragh Thuring. *Hardtack*, 2007, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 4 Caragh Thuring. *Ford Plant*, 2008, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 5 Caragh Thuring. *Palm Springs*, 2009, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 6 Caragh Thuring. *Etching Man*, 2010, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 7 Caragh Thuring. *Mr Hamilton*, 2011, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 8 Caragh Thuring. *The Plaza*, 2012, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 9 Caragh Thuring. *He who stands on both sides*, 2013, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 40.5 x 30.5 cm (16 x 12 in)
- 10 Caragh Thuring. *Bus Stop*, 2013, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 11 Caragh Thuring. *Belbo*, 2014, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 12 Caragh Thuring. *Tar Map*, 2015, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)
- 13 Alex Higgins scoring a Century Break in a (then) record 2'55" time. Thames Television, 1972
- 14 Caragh Thuring. *Ophaal Brug met Fonkelingen*, 2006, 2016. Acrylic on linen, 30.5 x 40.5 cm (12 x 16 in)

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## Info

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