

# STILL MOVING

joint exhibition of new work by

**ROBERT RACE**

automata

**VICTOR STUART GRAHAM**

maritime sculptures in reclaimed wood

**13th – 27th March 2010**

Hours: Sat. 13th – Sun. 21st daily  
2 – 7pm (or other times, by prior appointment)

Mon. 22nd onwards at any previously agreed time



"The First" Gallery  
1 Burnham Chase  
Bitterne Southampton  
SO18 5DG

**PV: Friday 12th March 6 – 9pm**

**OPEN MORNING: Sunday  
28th March 11am – 2pm**

during which sold pieces can be taken away

To "The First" Gallery's regulars, automatist **ROBERT RACE** hardly needs introduction: one of just three living makers to show solo here more than twice, he has exhibited with us for two decades.

A fascination with primitive foreign moving toys influences the mechanisms for his later work. He left his teaching day-job in the 90s, after leaping to prominence for adopting driftwood as a medium, a move unusual enough at the time to become his 'trademark'.

Many imitators later, **RR** is using less of it in his newer work, but he hasn't abandoned it completely. He is now among the UK's most sought-after automatists.

**VICTOR STUART GRAHAM's** pieces are static, but regularly seen in automata shows. The affinity is inexplicit, but visual / verbal wit, an obsession with the sea, using reclaimed materials, and an embrace of the off-beat are common to the outlook of many automatists.

**VSG's** pieces are typically low-relief, but are usually self-standing. His imagery is mainly sea-based: fishermen's housing, cliffs, yachts, harbour walls, shipping, inspired by his native East Sussex coast. He has had many varied phases, firstly studying knitting at the RCA.

A brilliant combination of decoration and shape, his sophisticated work belies its *naïf* appearance, managing the tricky balance between charm and tweeness. Paradoxically, despite **VSG's** subject matter and his residing on the coast, lots of his materials come not from sea-salvage, but reclamation centres, some far away from home.

Humour abounds in both men's work, making for an event that's sure to raise a smile or two. Do come along and add yours!