

# ANDIPA GALLERY

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SWINGING CHELSEA**

Exhibition Dates: 13 May - 12 June 2010

Andipa Gallery is pleased to present *Swinging Chelsea*, a celebration of art and culture that flourished in London's borough during the 1950's and 60's. Once a Victorian bohemian colony to artists, writers and poets, Chelsea was home to J. M. W. Turner, John Singer Sargent, Oscar Wilde and Thomas Carlyle. The area bloomed once again as an artistic haven in the 50's and 60's, with a number of young artists living, working and studying in the borough.

Exhibiting a selection of artists whose careers took shape during this time period, *Swinging Chelsea* coincides with Andipa's celebrations of over forty years within our Walton Street premises and the completion of the new lower ground level. The exhibition takes a nostalgic look at the area's diverse art scene that gave rise to the one of the most influential art movements of the 20th century – Pop Art.

Often drawing on American imagery and popular artefacts for inspiration, although with a very British angle, Pop Art coincided with the youth and pop music phenomenon of the 1950's and 60's, and later played a significant role in London's "Swinging Sixties". Artists such as Richard Hamilton, David Hockney, Patrick Caulfield, Derek Boshier and Eduardo Paolozzi all created work that embraced the artistic value and relevance of popular mass culture. Francis Bacon, on the other hand, did not succumb to the onset of Pop Art and continued to work along his own path in his Cromwell Place studio. His impact on young London painters, however, remained prevalent - especially among David Hockney and R.B. Kitaj, whose earlier works drew influence from Bacon's radical approach to the human figure.

Bridget Riley, a contemporary of Peter Blake at the RCA, also played an important role in the Swinging Sixties. Riley developed her own signature style, later coined as "Op Art" – mathematically-based compositions that played with optical illusions of geometric patterns, subjecting the viewer to a true physical sensation. Much to Riley's concern, Op Art later triggered a 60's fashion craze, where her patterns appeared on everything from clothes to stationery and furnishing fabrics. Unlike Pop Artists who embraced a reciprocal relationship with popular culture, Riley was dismayed at seeing her original work co-opted for commercial use.

For further press information and images please contact Rosa Attwood by email at [rosa@andipa.com](mailto:rosa@andipa.com) or by telephone +44 (0)20 7589 2371.

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Exhibition information**

Exhibition Dates: 13 May – 12 June 2010

Andipa Gallery, 162 Walton Street, London, SW3 2JL

Tel: 020 7589 2371 / [www.andipa.com](http://www.andipa.com)

Opening times: Monday to Friday 9:30am – 6pm, Saturday 11am – 6pm

Closest tube stations: Knightsbridge and South Kensington

Acoris Andipa, Director of the gallery, is available for interviews.

### **About Andipa Gallery**

Andipa Gallery is a specialist dealer in modern and contemporary art ranging from Matisse, Picasso and Warhol, through to Damien Hirst and Banksy. Based in Knightsbridge for over 40 years, the gallery has a long-established reputation of providing clients with a high level of service in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Andipa now publishes and represents a selection of new contemporaries under the umbrella of Andipa Contemporary.