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## Vicky Richardson talks to artist Danny Rolph about his love of architecture and his installation for Blueprint's new office in the City of London.

*Vicky Richardson* talks to artist **Danny Rolph** about his love of architecture and his installation for Blueprint's new office in the City of London



A reader of *Blueprint*, artist Danny Rolph has created an installation for the magazine's new headquarters off Fleet Street. The painting, *Asquith*, forms part of the *Twinwall* series, which are all named after British Prime Ministers, and is influenced by Rolph's love of architecture. With a layered network of lines, three-dimensional forms and collaged images and text, the work alludes to 1980s record sleeves, constructivism and pop art.

Rolph, a studio-based artist who rarely undertakes commissions, studied at the Royal College of Art (RCA) where he was friendly with several architects including David Adjaye. He was invited to exhibit at this year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition by Will Alsop and his painting caught the eye of *Blueprint*'s owner, Michael Danson, who approached the artist with a commission.

Rolph says that his work is created intuitively without plans or records of his ideas. For *Asquith*, he painted and collaged four planes of triple wall polycarbonate, a material he has worked with since the 1990s. He also works on canvas and paper, but finds that polycarbonate gives a spatial dynamic. "It's an industrial material but can be elegantly transformed, cut up and muddled with paint," he says. Its fluted construction recalls the lines of writing paper, and provides an underlying structure for Rolph's chaotic imagery. Pages from *Blueprint* and other publications in the group, *New Statesman* and *idFX*, have been incorporated. Rolph explains: "Mike asked me tentatively if I'd like to include them, and I was delighted to because of my interest in Warhol and collage. I've been reading *Blueprint* since the mid-Eighties, so it made sense."

Rolph also has local connections. His father was a printer, who worked on Fleet Street, and he grew up in Clerkenwell, now the heart of London's design community. His work has always been influenced by architecture. "I love its capacity to implode and fail heroically, and I'm also interested in the potential for painting to make us think differently about the spaces we inhabit," he says.

Currently, Rolph is Visiting Fellow at Winchester School of Art and is working towards an exhibition, *'Automatic Shoes'*, at Poppy Sebire gallery in 2010.

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left: The three-dimensional painting, *Asquith*, by Danny Rolph has been commissioned by *Blueprint*'s new office

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