Tim Mara

The Black Room, 1987

Screen-print on paper
British Council Collection

The Black Room is set against a dense, heavy black background, with everyday objects placed at the center to construct an interior space detached from reality. The artwork presents three objects through three distinct techniques, balancing the incongruities of scale, proportion, and distance to achieve visual harmony within the black space. In doing so, it highlights the quiet and mysterious character of the objects within an intensely simplified setting.

A red three-dimensional wireframe renders the classic pattern of a tablecloth, appearing like a suspended geometric structure that implies the solid presence of a round table. Simplified blue lines outline the silhouette of a domestic-style chair; even in the absence of a human figure, these lines guide the flow of the viewer's gaze. Positioned at the center, a white vessel features yellow and blue color-block ribbons around its rim, while its body is rendered with a black rubbing-like texture, contrasting to create a rich and tactile patterned quality. The black is not merely a background, but a tension that infuses silence with theatrical staging, resembling an impenetrable and unspoken psychological space. Through the precise layering of screenprinting within a highly simplified composition, these ordinary everyday objects are ritualistically transformed into presences imbued with a sense of preciousness.

This work belongs to his "Black Prints" series of the mid-to-late 1980s, continuing his sustained engagement with the relationships between still life and space, allowing viewers to re-experience the volume and presence of objects.

Artist Bio

Tim Mara was born in Dublin and moved to England in 1953. He was one of the most distinguished British printmakers, specialising in screenprinting, intaglio and lithography, and renowned for his exceptional technical precision. His works took everyday objects, interior spaces and repetitive patterns as subjects, creating delicate and richly narrative visual worlds through light and shadow, reflection, refraction and layered colours.

Mara studied successively at Epsom & Ewell School of Art, Wolverhampton Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art. He received a major travel scholarship from the Royal College of Art, as well as awards at the British International Print Biennale and the Norwegian International Print

Triennale. In 1990, he was appointed Professor of Printmaking at the Royal College of Art, and from 1993 to 1995 he also served as Head of the School of Fine Art; both his teaching and artistic practice were highly regarded. His works were exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, several major galleries in Dublin, and international exhibitions including the Brooklyn Museum and the Ljubljana Print Biennial. His works are held in the collections of Tate, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Irish Museum of Modern Art and numerous public institutions. In 2000, IMMA organised a major retrospective of his work titled *Mirror Man: Prints by Tim Mara*.

提姆．瑪拉

《The Black Room》1987

絲網版畫

英國文化協會藝術收藏

《**The Black Room**》以濃重的黑色為背景，中央放置日常物件，構築出一個抽離現實的室內空間。作品以三種截然不同的技法呈現三件物件，平衡大小、比例與距離上的不協調，在黑色空間中取得視覺和諧，使物件在極度簡化的場景中，展現出靜謐而神秘的特質。

紅色三維線框描繪出桌布的經典格紋，如懸浮的幾何結構，暗示圓桌穩固的存在。簡約的藍色線條勾勒出帶有家居感的椅子輪廓，即使人物缺席，線條仍引導着觀者的視線流動。位於中央的白色容器，瓶口環繞黃藍色塊帶，瓶身則以黑色拓印般的紋理處理，形成對比，帶來豐富而具觸感的圖案質感。黑色不僅是背景，更是為沉默注入舞台效果的張力，宛如一個無法穿透、不言而喻的心理空間。透過絲網印刷的精準疊印與高度簡化的構圖，這些平凡的日常物件被儀式性地轉化為令人珍重的存在。

此作品屬於他 1980 年代中後期的「黑色版畫」系列，延續他對靜物與空間關係的長期探索，讓觀者重新感受物件的體積與存在感。

藝術家簡介

提姆．瑪拉生於都柏林，1953 年移居英格蘭。他是英國最具代表性的版畫家之一，專精於絲網印刷、凹版及石版，並以極高技術精準度聞名。其作品以日常物件、室內空間與重複圖案為題材，透過光影、反射、折射與層疊的色彩，營造細膩而富敘事性的視覺世界。

他先後就讀於埃普索姆與尤厄爾藝術學院、伍爾弗漢普頓大學及皇家藝術學院。他曾獲皇家藝術學院重大旅遊獎學金，以及英國國際版畫雙年展與挪威國際版畫三年展等獎項。1990 年，他獲委

任為皇家藝術學院版畫系教授，1993 至 1995 年更兼任美術學院院長，教學與創作均備受推崇。其作品曾於倫敦當代藝術學院（ICA）、都柏林多間重要畫廊，以及布魯克林博物館、盧布爾雅那國際版畫雙年展等國際展覽中展出，並為泰特美術館、維多利亞與阿爾伯特博物館、愛爾蘭現代藝術博物館及多個公共機構所收藏。2000 年，愛爾蘭現代藝術博物館（IMMA）為他舉辦大型回顧展《Mirror Man: Prints by Tim Mara》。