

## **Andrew Mogridge: Artist Statement**

As a storyteller, I embrace the absurd and value the power of impulse over preconception. I explore themes of power and the farce of authority, the many forms of violence, and the vitality of life with all its fragility and impermanence. My work challenges and subverts social norms and dominant ideologies, questioning the structures that shape collective beliefs and behaviours. Repeating motifs—classical forms and industrial processes—serve as anchors in my practice. There is an immediacy in certain words and phrases, a familiar starting point that draws the viewer in before undermining expectations.

Through a combination of narrative, materiality, and humour, I hope to disrupt conventional thinking, exposing the tensions between the traditional and contemporary experience. I build conceptual frameworks that question the absurd logic of social systems, bureaucracy, and belief. Through subtle, often text-based interventions and object arrangements, I reveal the quiet violence and irrationality embedded in the everyday.

Through a never-ending series of paintings, drawings, pots, and prints my work brings to life a set of violent actors in a cruel and violent country. Locked in a never-ending battle, they play to their murderous dialogues and intentions with complete disregard for the damage to their bodies.

I am drawn to the instability of meaning—how it can be twisted, challenged, or completely overturned depending on who is looking and when. I engage with and exploit the material properties of my chosen medium, allowing its inherent qualities—whether texture, durability, or historical resonance—to shape the conceptual and visual outcomes of each piece. Memory is so unstable, and that volatility is central to my process.

Every new work is assigned a title, a kind of symbolic christening, which I intentionally detach from any fixed meaning. This deliberate uncoupling disrupts traditional expectations of interpretation, rendering any subsequent attempts at definitive explanation impractical. By doing so, I create a space where ambiguity thrives.

As my primary medium, ceramics possess a unique and defining characteristic: durability. Each piece has the potential to endure for thousands of years, during which time any ideas of ownership or provenance are lost to the traction of history.