

# KNIGHT WEBB GALLERY | LONDON

## Press Release

*Artist* Douglas McDougall  
*Title* Works on Paper | *Between The System and the Sentiment*

*Preview* 30 / 06 / 2016 6pm - 9pm  
*Dates* 01 / 07 / 2016 - 30 / 07 / 2016  
*Location* Knight Webb Gallery, 54 Atlantic Road, Brixton, SW9 8PZ  
*Contact* Rufus: [info@knightwebbgallery.com](mailto:info@knightwebbgallery.com) | +44 0 7939 530326  
*Website* [knightwebbgallery.com](http://knightwebbgallery.com)

### *'Nothing more than charcoal and paper'*

This solo show promises to be one of the most comprehensive exhibitions of Glaswegian artist Douglas McDougall's work for many years. McDougall produces a relatively small number of these large scale drawings each year, which may take months to reach completion. His work is in the permanent collection of The Cantor Arts centre CA and numerous private collections

The detailed rendering of McDougall's subjects are recurrent of Rembrandt's lively realism, a far cry from the photographic ambitions of hyper-realism. McDougall uses traditional materials in a contemporary context, producing works with psychological impact. After sketching out his portraits with charcoal, the artist textures the paper with scalpel blades, sharp cut erasers and sandpaper.

Douglas McDougall 'Between The System and the Sentiment' 2015, 110 x 160 cm, charcoal on archival print



## KNIGHT WEBB GALLERY | LONDON

The subject of 'Between the System and the Sentiment' (pictured above) is 'Theo', a man who lived in the same street as McDougall many years ago in London. He is an outsider, has schizophrenia, and appears to have been left to the wind and rain, worn smooth like a stone. McDougall has returned to this subject many times over a period of ten years and Theo is his muse, both man and myth.

The artist recently completed a year long residency in Beijing, during which time he made three powerful portraits of Ai Weiwei, alluding to the darker elements of this leading artists psyche than his admiring public are aware of.

McDougall works exclusively in graphite and charcoal on paper. His depiction of greying hair, battle scars and ageing skin is particularly striking, and serves as a metaphor for his subject's rejection of convention, and their position on the periphery of society. Through the careful rendering of these raw portraits, the artist is unravelling his own childhood in one of the toughest cities in the UK.

*'This is a side to my work that is a mirror of me; not exactly a self-portrait, but a working exorcism of my own anxiety. You could say that each piece is autobiographical.'*

Douglas McDougall 'Portrait of Ai Weiwei' 2014, 100 x 140 cm, charcoal and graphite on paper

