

# DION HORSTMANS

## LIGHT SPEED

9 - 27 August 2011

Today, in an age of technology, globalisation and data transfer, our understanding of the term 'at the speed of light' is tainted by an ever increasing awareness that progress is a relentless force, ceaselessly driving us forward. In truth the term refers to a scientific measure, but as an everyday turn of phrase, it means if we blink, we will most likely miss something. In our modern fast paced world, human endeavour is limited only by our imagination and the possibilities of invention. The daydreams of teenage boys - spacecraft that zip through multiple dimensions aided by a warp drive - may one day become a part of everyday life. Until that time, notions of speed, of compressed space and time, and the evocative desire to find new ways forward, will captivate artists and scientists alike.

While elements of geometry form the basis of Dion Horstmans' sculptural practice, preoccupations with dynamism and artificial dimensionality are the binding principle behind his work. His sharp edged forms, drenched in energetic fluorescents, unabashedly reflect a desire to manifest movement. As a means of blurring a singular reading of form toward something verging on the active, the artist deploys the intersection of line and void in an attempt to convey an illusion of trajectory.

This imperative to challenge spatial awareness is evident within many contemporary practices. The sculptor Bernar Venet uses angular and curved lines as a means to provoke contradictions in the relationship between surface and space, while the minimalist wall drawings of Sol Le Witt exemplify the desire to destabilise relative readings of distance and depth. These and the works of other modernist artists such as Robert Morris and David Smith operate within this spare use of positive and negative space. Working with reductive volume these artists embrace a desire to break through into a new territory of dimensional perception.

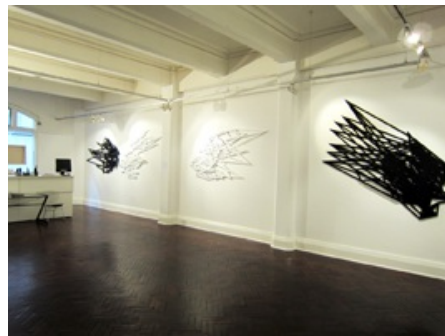
The procedural nature of Horstmans' practice, in which the fall of light and shadow inform the progressive design and development of a final piece, invests within his forms an ability to interact with the spaces around them. While functioning on a singular vertical plane these works ask to be read from multiple angles, to observe the ways in which the shifts of daylight or a passing glint of reflection can change or distort the perceived truth of a form.

Clearly delighting in the ability to model fleeting dynamism, Horstmans' works strive to articulate space as a spectacle, a liminal site in which absence and light question the fixed nature of the geometric. We perceive the idea of depth within the established physicality of gloss and matt surfaces, the shadows and collapsed lines they cast, aware that some intangible concept of velocity is at play. In a sense these geometric forms, determined and influenced by light and its trajectory, are perhaps the perfect mode of transportation into a new, multi-dimensional universe.

Phe Luxford 2011

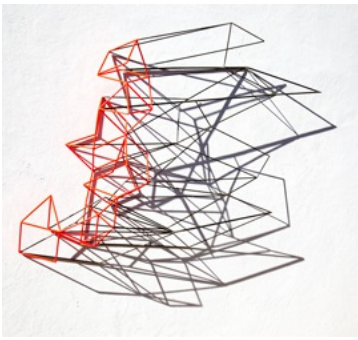


*Light Speed* - exhibition installation views

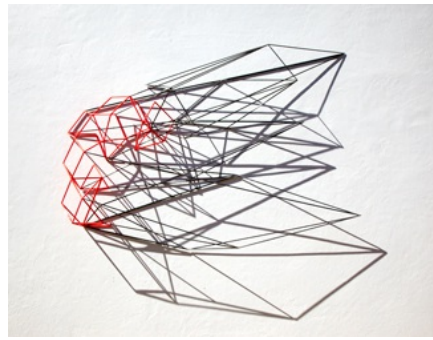


*Light Speed* - exhibition installation views





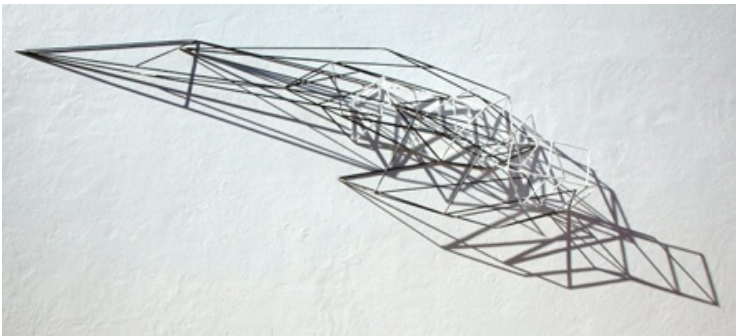
Lightspeed 1 - Monocerotis  
powdercoated steel  
1750 x 1000 x 220mm



Lightspeed 2 - HH32  
powdercoated steel  
1800 x 1100 x 275mm



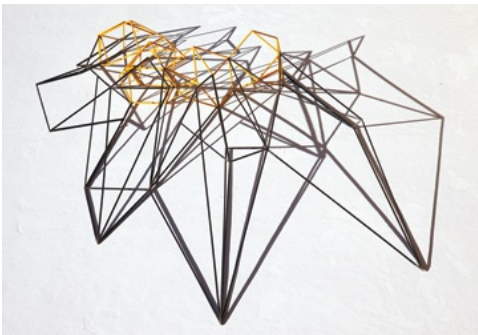
RIGHT HAND SIDE WORK  
Lightspeed 3 - Titania  
powdercoated steel  
2600 x 850 x 240mm



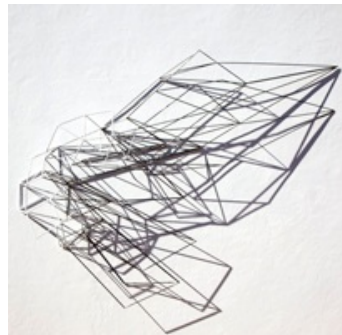
Lightspeed 4 - Halley's Comet  
powdercoated steel  
2600 x 700 x 240mm



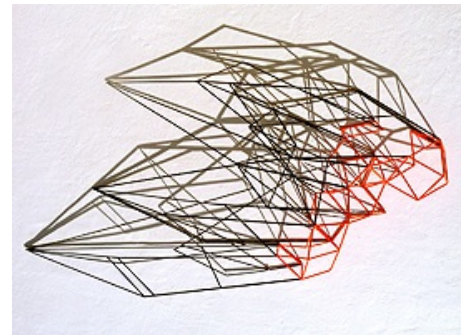
Lightspeed 5 - Mimas  
powdercoated steel  
2400 x 1050 x 250mm



Lightspeed 6 - Magellanic  
powdercoated steel  
220 x 160 x 25cm



Lightspeed 7 - Charon  
powdercoated steel  
2050 x 1300 x 220mm



Lightspeed 8 - Lapetus  
powdercoated steel  
2350 x 1200 x 240mm



Lightspeed 10 - HH 35,  
9mm bb ply with steel sub frame  
finished in 2-pack black acrylic  
2400 x 1200 x 60mm



Lightspeed 11 LL Ori,  
9mm bb ply with steel sub frame  
finished in 2-pack acrylic white  
2440 x 1200 x 60mm



*Lightspeed 12 - HH 47,*  
9mm bb ply with a 19 x 19 steel sub frame  
finished in 2-pack acrylic  
2300 x 1250 x 60mm



*Lightspeed 13- NGC 1999*  
9mm bb ply with a 19 x 19 steel sub frame  
finished in 2-pack acrylic white,  
2400 x 1200 x 60mm