



# Structure and substance



An exhibition of the writing and graphic design work of Ken Garland.

Curated by Pamela Bowman & Matthew Edgar  
In association with Unit Editions and Ken Garland



The show is based on two books:

**Ken Garland: Structure and Substance**

(published by Unit Editions, 2012) is the first comprehensive monograph devoted to the entire career of legendary English designer Ken Garland, from student exercises in the 1950s to his self-published photography books of recent years.

The biographical essay, written by Adrian Shaughnessy and accompanied by rare personal photographs, touches on the many sides of Garland: the ethical and political designer; the writer; the teacher; the photographer. It is underpinned by interviews with his contemporaries and peers. Garland himself cooperated with all aspects of the production of this book.

**Ken Garland: A word in your eye**

(Published by the University of Reading, 1996)  
Is a collection of Ken's writing, subtitled 'Opinions, observations and conjectures on design, from 1960 to the present.'

This book is now out of print and if you can find a copy it will be prohibitively expensive. One of the purposes of this project is to find a way to ensure students, and the design community as a whole, can still access this rich material.



Ken's writing has always accompanied his design work, this show brings these two practices together to encourage the viewer to see the common themes and issues.

This show is instigated by Pam Bowman and Matt Edgar to bring together Ken's design and writing into one place and enrich these bodies of work with recorded interviews with Ken undertaken during the last three years. The interviews give a wider context to the design work and writing, giving an insight into the political climate, influential voices, technical possibilities and production methods surrounding the texts. Stories about tea with Beatrice Warde can not fail to entice...

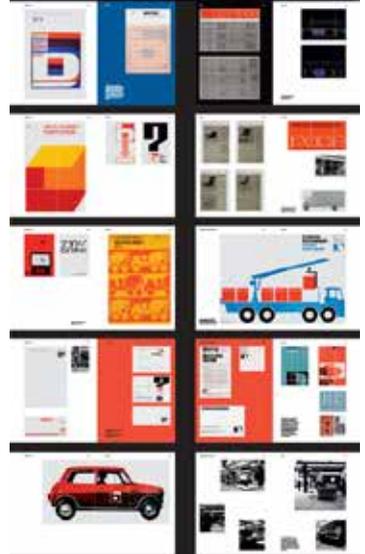
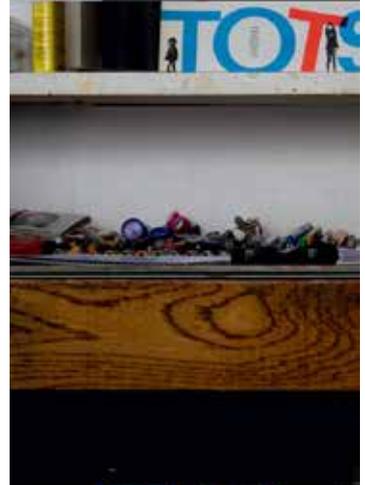
Now in his eighties, Garland is still as relevant to the design community today as he was when he published his famous 'First Things First' manifesto in 1964. He has a strong following amongst young designers and frequently lectures to large audiences, captivating them with his highly personal approach.

*Supported by  
Sheffield Institute of Arts and Unit Editions  
with the warmest thanks to Ken Garland*



## Large Banners

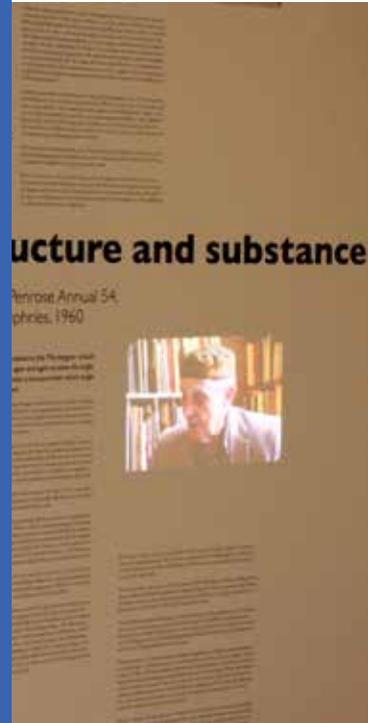
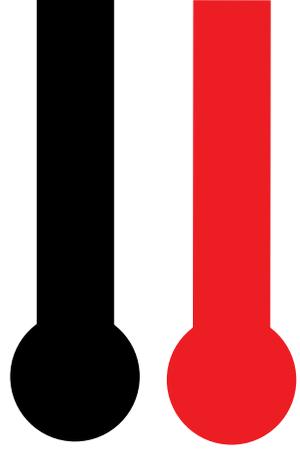
These banners are designed to show the studio space Ken works in, at a large scale, and detailed spreads of the Unit Editions book below. At Sheffield Hallam they were 7m tall but can be designed to fit a different gallery space in another format. A smaller gallery space may not reproduce all the book, or may have print continued onto a floor space. The intention is that the text of the spreads is at a legible size and is seen as a backdrop to the text led smaller banners.





## Film Banners

These banners hang on a frame in order to allow back projected contextual films and edits from the interviews with Ken. Currently we have focused on 2 articles and made 2 edits of the interviews and 3 supporting contextual films. This part of the project is in development and will be expanded.



### **Books and objects**

The exhibition features 6 of Ken's books / feature articles, 3 of his games for Galt Toys, a Galt rocking horse and a collection of his Pudkin Press books.

### **Vinyl Labelling**

All labelling for the show was designed as floor vinyl but could be adapted to wall mounting. The contextual information included here gives wider historical detail to the design and writing, including important social and cultural events.

Costs of shipping and installation can be kept to a minimum. The approximate cost of printed material for the exhibition at Sheffield Hallam was £1200.00. Please contact [p.bowman@shu.ac.uk](mailto:p.bowman@shu.ac.uk) for more information and any enquiries. The show is available to tour to galleries of any shape or size.

