



# Gustav Metzger Lift Off!

Edited by Elizabeth Fisher

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- An ambitious exhibition bringing together archive, film, sculpture and installations focusing on a less familiar but central area of artist Gustav Metzger's practice

"When I was young I wanted art that would lift off – that would levitate, gyrate, bring together different – perhaps contradictory aspects of my being" Gustav Metzger

Gustav Metzger(1926-2017) was one of the foremost figures of the post-war avant-garde in Britain, with a career has spanned over 60 years of art and political activism.

In 2014 Kettle's Yard presented *LIFT OFF!* – an ambitious exhibition bringing together archive, film, sculpture and installations focusing on a less familiar but central area of Metzger's practice – his auto-creative process driven work – the alter ego of his better-known auto-destructive practice. The exhibition marked something of a homecoming for Metzger, who began his artistic career at the Cambridge School of Art in 1944 and returned to deliver two seminal lecture/demonstrations (1960/1965) at the University of Cambridge.

This publication documents the artist's most ephemeral Auto-Creative artworks of the 1960s, and new works created by Metzger especially for *LIFT OFF!* It includes new texts by curator Elizabeth Fisher that illuminate this less well known aspect of Metzger's practice.