Ostensibly working within the tradition of the still life, Ivan Seal’s small-scale paintings complicate orthodox depictions of the inanimate objects with which we surround ourselves.

His practice is informed by sources as diverse as modernist literature, post-punk, linguistics and Thing theory, and the resulting body of work constitutes a lexicon of sorts, a vocabulary of matter brought to life.

To accompany Seal’s solo exhibition *In Here Stands It* at Spike Island, Bristol, 20 October – 9 December 2012, this monograph includes ‘the gibberish stands’, a text work by Seal and ‘shelf lifes’, an essay on Seal’s work by Bettina Klein, alongside eight full-colour images reproducing paintings featured in, *In Here Stands It*.