

Anthony Caro at Cliveden



The National Trust and Blain|Southern are delighted to announce an exhibition by internationally renowned British sculptor, Sir Anthony Caro OM CBE (1924- 2013). Curated by Amanda Renshaw, *Anthony Caro at Cliveden* presents sixteen monumental works across the Grade I listed grounds, charting Caro's career and his varied, boundary pushing approach to sculpture. On view from 6 April – 10 November 2019, this is the third exhibition presented in collaboration with Blain|Southern at this historic location.

Exhibiting sculpture outdoors has been a significant feature of the designed landscape at Cliveden since the 18th century. From large figurative works such as *Joan of Arc* in the Ilex Grove, to decorative architectural features such as the *Borghese Balustrade* on the Parterre; for three centuries new art and design has offered fresh perspectives of Cliveden's remarkable gardens. This year visitors have the opportunity of seeing sculptures by an artist widely regarded as the greatest British sculptor of his generation. Spanning over 40 years of the artist's career, the works in the exhibition are predominantly installed along Cliveden's Green Drive - a mile long path that runs the length of the eastern side of the estate.

Caro came to prominence through a landmark exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1963. Rejecting the prevailing preference for cast and carved figuration, he presented painted, abstract steel sculptures displayed, for the first time, without plinths. This was a radical new proposition, omitting a pedestal and presenting work directly on the floor, changing the way sculpture was interpreted and allowing viewers to engage with the work from their own perspective.

Whilst Caro's very early sculptures were exclusively figurative, the rigorously abstract assemblages of steel and found industrial objects, for which he is celebrated, continue to maintain a relationship with the human form. Their height, apparent solidity or weightlessness; their brightly coloured or impenetrable surfaces; their sweeping shapes and rugged forms, evoke characteristics and sensations that are palpable and have distinct parallels with our own physical selves.

Works such as *Slow March* (1985) with its curves, golden sheen and red stripe reminiscent of martial bands, and *Scorched Flats* (1974), created whilst Caro worked at a steel construction plant in Canada, are placed at intervals along the Green Drive, falling in and out of view as visitors make the journey along the path. Following in the eighteenth century tradition of an 'eye catcher', used throughout Cliveden's Grade I listed grounds, these contemporary sculptures will encourage the viewer to not only consider the works themselves, but the wider landscape in which they are placed.

'To walk around Caro's pieces is to see their compositions shift radically. His capacity to transform construction-site leftovers into stimulating compositions sharpens the senses, boggles the mind and attunes us to our surroundings.' David Pagel, Los Angeles Times

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive publication with full colour plates detailing all the works and an essay by Amanda Renshaw.

The works of Anthony Caro are available to view until 10 November 2019. The exhibition is included within Cliveden's normal admission price.

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[Anthony Caro at Cliveden](#) is presented in co-operation with Annely Juda Fine Art. Spanning works from the early 1950s up to Caro's last works in 2013, [Anthony Caro, Seven Decades](#) is at Annely Juda from 1 May – 6 July 2019.

A further presentation of Caro's works, [Iron in the Soul](#) will be on view at East Gallery, Norwich University of the Arts from 7 May - 20 July 2019.

For National Trust news and further information about events at Cliveden visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cliveden or call 01628 605069

Cliveden, Taplow, Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire, SL1 8NS

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Notes to Editor:

About Cliveden

A majestic vision set high above the Thames as it winds its way to the capital, Cliveden is a proud celebration of status and splendour. Encircled by astonishing views of river beneath and land beyond, endless narratives of passion, pleasure and politics lie embedded within its grounds.

Cliveden estate is open daily from 10am - 5.30pm. Admission is free for National Trust members or the 2019 admission prices are £16 per adult, £9 per child or a family ticket (up to 2 adults and 3 children) is £41.

About Anthony Caro

Anthony Caro (1924 - 2013) played a pivotal role in the development of twentieth century sculpture. After studying sculpture at the Royal Academy Schools in London, he worked as assistant to Henry Moore. He came to public attention with a show at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1963, where he exhibited large abstract sculptures brightly painted and standing directly on the ground so that they engage the spectator on a one-to-one basis. This was a radical departure from the way sculpture had hitherto been seen and paved the way for future developments in three-dimensional art.

Caro's teaching at St Martin's School of Art in London (1953 -1981) was very influential. His questioning approach opened up new possibilities, both formally and with regard to subject matter. His innovative work as well as his teaching led to a flowering and a new confidence in sculpture worldwide.

Caro often worked in steel, but also in a diverse range of other materials, including bronze, silver, lead, stoneware, wood and paper. Major exhibitions include; retrospectives at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1975), the Trajan Markets, Rome (1992), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (1995), Tate Britain, London (2005), and three museums in Pas-de-Calais, France (2008), to accompany the opening of his Chapel of Light at Bourbourg.

Prizes include the Praemium Imperiale for Sculpture in Tokyo in 1992 and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Sculpture in 1997. Caro held many honorary degrees from universities in the UK, USA and Europe. He was knighted in 1987 and received the Order of Merit in May 2000.

About Amanda Renshaw

Amanda Renshaw first met Anthony Caro in the 1990s and maintained a friendship until his death in 2013. Gaining unprecedented access to his extensive archive and observing his studio practise, together they compiled an in-depth visual discovery of his work, published in 2014 by Phaidon Press.

Renshaw collaborates with galleries, artists, and artist's estates which have included; Sir Anthony Caro, The Philip Guston Foundation, The Warhol Foundation and the Willem de Kooning Foundation. Renshaw worked at Phaidon Press for over 20 years. In her position as Editorial Director and Deputy Publisher, she performed a key role in the shaping of all Phaidon publications and has commissioned over one hundred books. Prior to working at Phaidon, she was a specialist in the Impressionist and Modern Department at Christie's in both London and Paris. She started her career in the Education Department at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.

About the National Trust

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 778 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

More than 24 million people visit every year, and together with 5 million members and over 65,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places for ever, for everyone.

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About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary art gallery based in London, Berlin and New York. The gallery represents an expanding roster of international artists and is the exclusive representative of the estates of Lynn Chadwick and Avigdor Arikha. Recent exhibitions include Bosco Sodi, Chiharu Shiota, Jonas Burgert, Mat Collishaw, Henning Strassburger, Sean Scully, Ali Banisadr, Moshekwa Langa and Edward Kienholz. In 2017 Blain|Southern collaborated with the National Trust to present Bernar Venet at Cliveden, the first exhibition

in the National Trust's contemporary arts programme at this historic location. This was followed by an outdoor exhibition of the renowned British sculptor Lynn Chadwick in 2018.

Image: Anthony Caro, *Double Tent*, 1987 / 1993, Courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Photo © Jonty Wilde

For further press information and images:

Laura Callendar at Blain|Southern

020 7493 4492

laura@blainsouthern.com

Christina Suddons

01628 550325 ext. 111

christina.suddons@nationaltrust.org.uk