

THE
HEPWORTH
WAKEFIELD



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ANTHONY McCALL: SOLID LIGHT WORKS
16 FEBRUARY – 3 JUNE 2018



Anthony McCall. *Face to Face (II)* (2013).
Installation view, Eye Film Museum, Amsterdam, 2014.
Photograph by Hans Wilschut.

In spring 2018, The Hepworth Wakefield will present a major survey of work by British born artist Anthony McCall (b.1946). *Solid Light Works* will be the first UK exhibition of McCall's work in over a decade and will include the UK premiere of three new 'solid light' installations.

McCall describes his practice as existing in the space where cinema, sculpture and drawing overlap. He is best known for his large-scale, immersive sculptural light installations that incorporate the visitor and invite them to become active participants in the work.

Anthony McCall said "I am thrilled to be showing in the UK and particularly in the David Chipperfield designed galleries at The Hepworth Wakefield. These carefully proportioned and gently angled spaces are unusually sympathetic to the work on display."

The exhibition has been shaped closely with McCall and will explore all facets of his work. It will highlight how drawing has been an enduring and essential component of his practice. At the heart of the exhibition, two galleries will be devoted to a survey of his graphic works. These rooms will emphasize the importance of drawing for McCall, both as a way to imagine three-dimensional form and to explore temporal structure.

For McCall, the circle, the straight line, and the wave are the basic elements that underpin his practice and each solid light work is a variation of these drawn shapes,

often concealing, revealing or traveling through one another. The exhibition will demonstrate McCall's meticulous planning of how a drawn line or shape will behave when rendered as though it were a physical three-dimensional structure. The drawings and notebooks will also show how McCall's current work remains in active dialogue with his earliest ideas.

Many of the works on paper will connect directly to the three solid light installations in the exhibition. Harnessing the full capabilities of digital projection, McCall's new installations are minimal in means, using only projected light and a thin mist, yet they create physically powerful works that take on the appearance of sculptural forms in space. These works are in a permanent state of flux, moving slowly through precisely mapped sequences that advance and return in repeating cycles over the course of the day. Visitors are encouraged to engage with the planes and chambers created by the projections which, at their expanded scale, take on almost architectural qualities.

McCall began his career in the UK, making outdoor performances based on grids of small fires. Shortly after moving to New York in 1973, he produced his first solid light work, the 16mm film *Line Describing a Cone*. McCall went on to produce a number of variations of this piece where, as the projected form unfolded, or swept through the darkened spaces, ambient dust and cigarette smoke created the illusion of volume. These works were related to the Expanded Cinema and Structural Film explorations of the London Filmmakers Cooperative. *Line Describing a Cone* will be restaged and shown in full at The Hepworth Wakefield over a special weekend of activity during the exhibition.

McCall withdrew from his artistic practice at the end of the 1970s, establishing a successful graphic design studio that specialised in art publications. He reemerged in the 2000s, propelled by the development of the haze machine and of digital projection, that together enabled him to realise more ambitious concepts. McCall has attracted international recognition for his work, taking part in numerous important solo and group exhibitions at acclaimed institutions and his work is represented in collections worldwide.

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ABOUT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The Hepworth Wakefield is an award-winning art gallery in the heart of Yorkshire, set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, the gallery opened in May 2011 and has already welcomed nearly 2 million visitors. The gallery was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in July 2017. Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It also is home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive

compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process.

The Hepworth Wakefield is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council, England

ABOUT ANTHONY McCALL

Born St Paul's Cray, England, in 1946. Lives and works in Manhattan.

McCall's work's historical importance has been recognized in such exhibitions as *Into the Light: the Projected Image in American Art 1964-77*, Whitney Museum of American Art (2001-2); *The Expanded Screen: Actions and Installations of the Sixties and Seventies*, Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna (2003-4); *The Expanded Eye*, Kunsthaus Zurich (2006); *Beyond Cinema: the Art of Projection*, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2006-7); *The Cinema Effect: Illusion, Reality and the Projected Image*, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC (2008); and *On Line*, Museum of Modern Art (2010-11).

McCall's work has also been exhibited at, amongst others: Centre Pompidou, Paris (2004); Tate Britain, London (2004); SFMoMA (2007); Serpentine Gallery, London (2007-8); Hangar Bicocca, Milan (2009); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2009); Serralves, Porto (2011); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2012); Kunstmuseum St Gallen – Lokremise (2013); Eye Film Museum, Amsterdam (2014); and Lugano Arte e Cultura (2015).

Current publications include *Anthony McCall: 1970s Works on Paper* (Ann Wagner, Walther König, 2013); *Anthony McCall: Notebooks & Conversations* (Graham Ellard and Stephen Johnstone, Lund Humphries, 2015); and *Anthony McCall: Solid Light Works* (Luke Skrebowski, Antonio Somaini, SKIRA - Lugano Arte e Cultura, 2015).