

# LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

## Anish Kapoor

11 December 2024 – 11 January 2025  
27 Bell Street, London

From 11 December – 11 January, Anish Kapoor presents a special exhibition of six concave mirror sculptures. Painted in shades of deep purple, displayed together they form a dynamic and transcendent environ that encompasses the viewer.

Through a deep-rooted impulse to experiment with the phenomenology of space, Kapoor's oeuvre has long embraced the mirrored surface for its play with reflection and distortion, forcing the viewer to reassess their relationship to the stability of their own mirrored self in the world. Over the decades, these mirror works – as witnessed in this new body of semi-reflective, concave sculptures – have become increasingly painterly, embodying in them the artist's own journey exploring the potential of painting through multiple mediums.

This series of works – including *Wild Cherry, Magenta and Burple* (2023), *Clear to Purple* (2024) and *Dark Purple to Light Purple* (2024) – fade subtly across shades of deep purple, creating a lyrical oscillation of colour that further emphasises or distorts the formal structure of the object and its reflection. The spiritual and magnetic quality of the colour derives from its existence as a horizon point; it sits between the opposing colours of blue (the source of black, the abyss and infinite heavenly sky) and red (the elemental shade of the internal, human and base). While much of Kapoor's practice has been characterised by a powerful encounter with these two colours, the artist is now delving into the sublime meeting point of this hue, also associated with a sensation of other-worldliness, the magical and the spiritual, something just out of reach.

Kapoor has, through a committed and experimental practice since the 1980s, sought to explore and manipulate space in new ways. This has manifested in many forms: from monumental and ambitious public sculptures that inspire awe and wonder, to a suite of visceral, ethereal paintings that delve deep into the inner world of our mind and body. The mirrored, flawless concave surfaces subtly warp one's perception of physical reality by reflecting light to pull the painted image from the traditional pictorial plane on the wall and projecting the focused image metres in front of the mirror, engrossing the viewer into a three-dimensional painterly landscape of colour.

*"The interesting thing about a polished surface to me is that when it is really perfect enough it literally ceases to be physical; it levitates; it does something else, especially on concave surfaces...What happens to concave surfaces is in my view, completely beguiling. They cease to be physical and it is that ceasing to be physical that I'm after."*

- Published in *'Past, Present, Future'*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Boston, 2008

The exhibition coincides with Kapoor's first solo exhibition with Lisson Gallery Shanghai, *Drawings*, which runs until 25 January 2025. This exhibition features a series of recent gouache drawings on paper, focusing primarily on the void – a central motif for Kapoor – and the tensions between the inner and outer world, light and dark.

## About Anish Kapoor

Anish Kapoor is internationally recognized as one of today's leading contemporary artists. Renowned for sculptures that are adventures in form and engage public space, Kapoor maneuvers between vastly different scales, across numerous series of work. Immense PVC skins flayed or inflated within architecture or landscape; paintings undulating with a viscerally abject physicality; mirrors which suck the viewer into the vertiginous concavity of their aura and pigmented

voids, carved into stone or within the ground beneath us that confound our perception. Kapoor's work situates our inner world into the world around us, turned inside out, its inversions and protrusions summon up deep-felt metaphysical polarities of container and contained, being and non-being, that disrupt our quotidian reality.

Anish Kapoor was born in Mumbai, India in 1954 and lives and works in London and Venice, Italy. He studied at Hornsey College of Art, London (1973–77) followed by postgraduate studies at Chelsea School of Art, London (1977–78). Recent solo exhibitions include Cidade Matarazzo, São Paulo, Brazil (2024); Liverpool Cathedral, UK (2024); ARKEN Museum of Contemporary Art, Ishøj, Denmark (2024); Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy (2023–24); Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia and Palazzo Manfrin, Venice, Italy (2022); Modern Art Oxford, UK (2021); Museum of Contemporary Art and Urban Planning, Shenzhen, China (2021); Houghton Hall, Norfolk, UK (2020); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany (2020); 'Surge' at Fundación Proa, Buenos Aires (2019); Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum and Imperial Ancestral Temple, Beijing (2019); CorpArtes, Santiago (2019); Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, London (2019); Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal (2018); *Descension* at Public Art Fund, Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 1, New York, NY, USA (2017); Parque de la Memoria, Buenos Aires (2017); MAST Foundation, Bologna, Italy (2017); Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), Mexico City (2016); Couvent de la Tourette, Evieux, France (2015); Château de Versailles, Versailles, France (2015) and The Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, Moscow (2015). He represented Britain at the 44th Venice Biennale in 1990 with *Void Field* (1989), for which he was awarded the Premio Duemila for Best Young Artist and won the Turner Prize in 1991. Large scale public projects include *Cloud Gate* (2004) in Millennium Park, Chicago, USA; *Dismemberment Site I* (2003–2009) Kaipara Bay, New Zealand and *Ark Nova* (2013) the world's first inflatable concert hall in Japan. Anish Kapoor was awarded a CBE in 2003 and a Knighthood in 2013 for services to visual arts.

## About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 70 international artists across spaces in London, New York, Los Angeles, Shanghai and Beijing. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists and others of that generation, from Carmen Herrera and Olga de Amaral to Hélio Oiticica and Lee Ufan. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Liu Xiaodong, Otobong Nkanga, Pedro Reyes, Sean Scully, Hiroshi Sugimoto and Wael Shawky. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists including Dana Awartani, Cory Arcangel, Garrett Bradley, Ryan Gander, Josh Kline, Hugh Hayden, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost and Cheyney Thompson.

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