

Richard Long

23 May – 12 July 2014
52-54 Bell Street, London

For his first solo exhibition with Lisson Gallery in over three decades, Richard Long presents a new work made directly in the gallery, as well as other recent pieces made on walks in England, Switzerland and Antarctica. Having began his career with the gallery in the 1970s, Long comes full circle while continuing to investigate many of the themes that concerned him then – from the real and conceptual routes he traverses, to the existential notion of the solitary exploration of nature. An image of Long's red, one-man tent, perched on the expanse of the Driscoll Glacier in 2012, depicts his continuing commitment to making art in the most remote and uninhabited corners of the world and represents his first trip to the Antarctic region. A sculpture of standing stones made of Delabole slate from Cornwall will be accompanied by a new series of large, gestural mud works using white Cornish clay and tidal river mud gathered from the banks of the Avon in Bristol. These works are formed as much by natural forces – including gravity and the fluidity of the watery material – as they are by the human energy of Long's body and hand.

In addition to bringing raw matter from outside into the galleries – asserting an alternately ancient and contemporary relationship to the land, redolent of prehistoric monuments and current environmental concerns alike – Long also brings the experience of his walks into the public domain through text and photography. The text work documenting his 240-mile, eight-day walk from Cornwall to Oxfordshire – taking in Dartmoor, the Dawlish cliffs and Cheddar Gorge – describes a walk in terms of geology, namely the five materials encountered along the way: SLATE GRANITE SANDSTONE LIMESTONE CHALK. One photo-work, entitled *Romansch Stones* (2013), provides the only remaining evidence of a stone circle made along a 16-day walk through the Engadine region of the Swiss Alps. Ultimately, Long seeks "A balance between the patterns of nature and the formalism of human, abstract ideas like lines and circles. It is where my human characteristics meet the natural forces and patterns of the world – that is the subject of my work." (1991)

Long is also the subject of the touring show: 'Richard Long: Prints 1970-2013' at New Art Gallery, Walsall (16 April–22 June) and an ARTIST ROOMS display, at Burton Art Gallery (4 October–10 January 2015). He is included in the group shows 'Body & Void: Echoes of Moore in Contemporary Art' at the Henry Moore Foundation (1 May–26 October) and 'Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-1979' at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (until 15 June).

About the artist

Richard Long has been in the vanguard of conceptual art in Britain since he created *A Line Made by Walking* in 1967, while still a student. This photograph of the path left by his feet in the grass, a harmonious intervention in the landscape, established a precedent that has expanded to trails in regions all over the world. He mediates his experience of terrain from mountains through to valleys, shorelines, desert, rivers and snowscapes, according to archetypal geometric marks and shapes, made by his footsteps alone or gathered from the materials of the place, which are left as evidence on site. These passing interventions are documented with photographs, maps and texts, where the measurements of distances walked, place names and phenomena are vocabulary for powerful, condensed narratives.

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Richard Long was born in Bristol, UK in 1945, where he continues to live and work. He studied at West of England College of Art, Bristol (1962–65), then St Martin's School of Art, London (1966–68). In 1969, Long was included in a seminal exhibition of Minimalist and Conceptual works entitled *When Attitude Becomes Form* at the Kunsthalle Bern for which he made his first text-based word-work. After 1969, Long created environmental works all around the world, documenting his walks with texts, maps, and photographs. In the 1980s, Long began making new types of mud works using handprints applied directly to the wall. He also constructed large lines and circles made of stones, slate, and sticks, often collected on his walks or, in later years, from locations near the exhibition sites.

Major solo exhibitions include Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2010), Tate Britain, London (2009), Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2007), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2006), National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (1996), Philadelphia Museum of Art (1994) and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1986). He represented Britain at the 37th Venice Biennale (1976) and won the Turner Prize in 1989 after being shortlisted four times. He received the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture (1990), has been elected to the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2001), was awarded Japan's Praemium Imperiale in the field of sculpture (2009) and was made a CBE in 2013.

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Since being founded in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, it has championed the careers of artists who have transformed the way art was made and presented. It continues to support the future of its artists, the legacy of historical figures, the evolving practice of established artists and the wide-ranging potential of emerging and new talents. As well as showing and supporting an important array of international artists, such as Marina Abramović, Gerard Byrne, Liu Xiaodong, Tatsuo Miyajima and Santiago Sierra, Lisson Gallery also represents many younger artists of this stature, including Allora & Calzadilla, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander and Haroon Mirza.

Exhibition Facts

Opening Hours Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

Location 27 Bell Street, London, NW1 5BY

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