

ANTHONY CARO



Chorus
1999/2000
Cast and welded brass
32 x 55 x 20 cm

September 29 – October 30, 2011

Exhibition Information

Artist: Anthony Caro (British, b.1924-)

Duration: September 29(Thu.) - October 30(Sun.)

Place: Kukje Gallery, K1 (Tel 735-8449)

Opening Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm

KUKJE GALLERY

About the Exhibition

Kukje Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new and recent works by Anthony Caro. This will be the artist's third solo exhibition at the gallery, featuring works from 1999 to the present. The current exhibition also marks the 50th anniversary of the artist's first exhibition of his steel sculptures. Having received praise early in his career from influential Modernist critics such as Clement Greenberg and Michael Fried, who were both impressed by Caro's pure, aesthetic development, the artist continues to push his expansive oeuvre merging formal and conceptual vocabularies.

Caro is best known for creating an engaging yet contemplative viewing experience by actively drawing in space, installing his sculptures in a way that they become unified with the surrounding architecture. Caro constantly explores the visual potential of sculptural forms through the use of non-traditional industrial materials and unconventional installation strategies; his work is celebrated for having challenged and ultimately eliminated the traditional use of pedestals, experimenting instead with alternative installation methods to rid the boundary between the form and its exhibition environment. This exploration of forms and material in relation to space established Caro as a revolutionary figure in the art world, insuring his position as a seminal twentieth century artist.

For Caro's third exhibition at Kukje Gallery the artist will present large-scale metal sculptures that use industrial materials in addition to using large pieces of stone. Also included in the exhibition will be works from his tabletop series and recent work from his 2010 relief series. The six relief works that hang on the wall (as opposed to his "tableau" works that sit on the floor), feature a lighter, almost faded color palette and playful linear elements. This series showcases the artist's turn towards a more lyrical vocabulary.

About the Artist

Anthony Caro (b.1924) lives and works in London. Born in New Malden, England he grew up in Surrey and first began to study sculpture at the age of 16. Despite his parent's wish for him to pursue finance, Caro received a degree in engineering at the Charterhouse School and Christ's College, Cambridge in 1944. After serving two years in the Royal Navy as an engineer, Caro continued to pursue his early interest in sculpture at the Royal Academy of Art from 1947 until 1952. There he met the quintessential Modernist sculptor Henry Moore, working as his assistant, an experience that Caro has characterized as influential.

In 1958, Caro was introduced to Clement Greenberg at a party, a serendipitous meeting that prompted him to study abroad in the U.S. During that time, he met David Smith, whose works in metal also left an impression on Caro, and he began using found industrial materials such as I-beams, welded steel and mesh lining. In the 1960s Caro encountered other key figures such as the critic Michael Fried, and Abstract Expressionist painters such as Kenneth Noland, Robert Motherwell, and Larry Poons — connections that further enriched his works.

In addition to his own studio practice, Caro has had an important role as a teacher, mentoring emerging sculptors at Saint Martin's School of Art in London from 1953 to 1979 and Bennington College from 1963 to 1965. With fellow professor, Robert Loder, Caro created a democratic class format, known as "The Triangle Workshop" to encourage students to constantly strive for formal and conceptual innovation. Through his active teaching and careful tutelage, Caro inspired a generation of new artists such as Richard Deacon, Gilbert & George, and Richard Long.

Exhibition History

From the beginning of his career Caro immediately stood out from the rest of his contemporaries as having avoided the conflict between Modernism and Minimalism. The artist achieved international acclaim with his first solo show at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1963 — presenting 15 large metal works. He then had his first solo exhibition in New York at the André Emmerich Gallery and continued to exhibit with the gallery for 30 years. In addition, Caro has exhibited at numerous institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York (1975), The Trajan Markets in Rome (1992), The Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo (1995), and The Tate Britain in London (2005).

Caro has received numerous prestigious awards such as the Praemium Imperiale in 1992 (the highest honor awarded by the Japan Art Association) and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Sculpture in 1997. In 1987 Anthony Caro was knighted and he received the Order of Merit in 2000.

The artist's works are also currently on view at The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In a upcoming exhibition, Caro will reveal a massive sculpture that will stretch for three blocks along Park Avenue in New York (2012).

About the Works

One of the most distinct aspects of Caro's work is that he has always transcended any set of rules or specific style, an approach that makes his works difficult to categorize. The artist believes that the value of a work arises from self-exploration and criticism rather than any external principles.

Caro established himself in the early 1960s with his innovative use of industrial and found materials that were painted with bright, saturated colors. He transcended traditional sculptural vocabularies and created dynamic, abstract sculptures drawn in space.

The *Trojan War* series from the late 1980s served as a turning point for the artist who had established his reputation with his ability to compose objects and forms in an abstract, painterly manner. His refusal to limit himself to a single mode of expression has allowed him to continuously reexamine his own impulses — an approach that has meant that abstraction is just one of his many genres.

Press Release

Included in the present exhibition, works such as *Orator* and *Palace* (2003-2004) recall a specific object, be it a human being or architecture, while Caro's monumental sculptures, *South Passage* (2004) and *Star Passage* (2006), assembled with brightly painted metal beams as well as galvanized steel, portray original forms derived from an industrial landscape. Finally, Caro's interest in creating a dialogue is apparent through his tableau works that hang on the wall on the second floor of the gallery. These works are a part of his relief series from 2010 and their loose juxtaposition of materials evoke paper collage wherein the materials overlap and interact with each other within the frame.

The exhibition features 17 sculptures completed over the past decade, many of which will be exhibited for the first time. The exhibition provides a valuable opportunity not only to survey works by a seminal twentieth century artist who helped shape the evolution of modern sculpture but to experience first-hand the artist's continued self-examination and material mastery.

Exhibition Images & Captions

Use of images must clearly credit the artist and other relevant parties.



Orator
2003/2004
Stoneware and steel
150 x 83.5 x 57 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul



Palace
2003/2004
Stone and steel
157.5 x 147 x 230 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul

Exhibition Images & Captions

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Polyphemus

2004

Steel and cast iron, galvanized

190 x 112 x 157 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul



Roundabout

2004/2005

Steel, cast iron and stainless steel

86.5 x 71 x 57 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul

Exhibition Images & Captions

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Star Passage

2006/2007

Steel, galvanized & painted blue

330 x 325 x 229 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul



South Passage

2005

Steel, galvanized and painted red

231 x 346 x 173 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul

Exhibition Images & Captions

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Relief Piece Hoops

2010

Resin fiberglass, steel, wood, paint
83 x 83 x 15 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul



Relief Piece Fox Trot

2010

Resin, fiberglass, wood painted
73 x 83.5 x 25.5 cm

Courtesy of the artist and Kukje Gallery, Seoul

Exhibition Images & Captions

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KUKJE GALLERY, SEOUL
Installation view