

Anish Kapoor

10 October – 10 November 2012
29 & 52-54 Bell Street

Lisson Gallery is proud to announce a major exhibition of new works by Anish Kapoor. Spanning both the gallery's spaces on Bell Street, London, the exhibition marks 30 years of Lisson Gallery working together with the Turner-prize winning artist and provides a thorough exposition of Kapoor's most recent work.

The first living artist to be the subject of a solo exhibition at London's Royal Academy of Arts (2009), Kapoor, born in Bombay in 1954, first rose to prominence in the 1980s with his brightly coloured, pigment-coated sculptures, the biomorphic forms of the seminal 1000 Names series. Later works saw large-scale installations negotiating and negating space, seeming to swallow the ground whole, yet, at other times, collapsing in on themselves into a void, or creating a new space hovering between the work and its viewer.

The Royal Academy exhibition, and a series of subsequent international museum shows, offered a contrast between works of highly polished metals reflecting a world of fantastic illusion, and installations in wax or cement which suggested raw matter in a state of continual evolution and entropy. Kapoor's most recent artistic innovations continue this inevitable duality, contrasting the earthbound and the transcendental. The Lisson Gallery exhibition presents for the first time a new series of earth works of varied formats: table sculptures modelling micro and macro-landscapes, wall and floor sculptures evoking the natural forms of rock and coral, and works on canvas coated with pigments mined from the earth in a gritty take both on painterly traditions and on Kapoor's own earlier pigment sculptures and void forms. Other works include new concrete sculptures; Kapoor's first major sculpture using a readymade object; and a room designed to induce a powerful sensation of unease. Together they complete a complex and varied body of new explorations of experience and form.

Outside in the Lisson's sculpture yard sits an imposing large-scale sculpture made of Corten steel, the same material used both for 'Memory' - shown originally at the Guggenheim's galleries in Berlin and New York - and for the canopy element in Kapoor's Arcelor Mittal Orbit sculpture which continues to dominate London's Olympic Park.

52–54 Bell Street
London NW1 5DA
T +44 (0)20 7724 2739

Via Zenale, 3
20123 Milan
Italy

241 Eldridge Street
10002 New York
USA

lissongallery.com

LISSON GALLERY

By contrast, the final room of the Lisson show presents six perfect fibreglass hemispherical monochromes, hung classically on the walls of the gallery. The visual effect of these works varies from one of two-dimensional floating discs, to almost infinite depth revealed upon closer examination. These works, in their different way, also hark back to Kapoor's earliest pigment pieces, where intense primary colours characterised his practice. The colours here are more complex mauves, aquas, purples and royal blues.

Colour is not an end in itself for Kapoor, it is rather the emotional impact of colour as of form that drives his work. Referencing the great masters of monochromatic painting from Malevich to Barnett Newman and Ellsworth Kelly, Kapoor elides the distinction between two and three dimensions, between perception and experience. The play between surface and depth is a familiar characteristic of Kapoor's articulations of void forms in earlier as well as this new work. This duality, along with that between the earthy or base and the pure and spiritual, have been tellingly described by Germano Celant, who sees Kapoor's work as standing at the crux of "spirit and matter, above and below, masculine and feminine... the duality [in which] the energy of transformation and evolution lies."

52–54 Bell Street
London NW1 5DA
T +44 (0)20 7724 2739

Via Zenale, 3
20123 Milan
Italy

241 Eldridge Street
10002 New York
USA

lissongallery.com

52–54 Bell Street
London NW1 5DA
T +44 (0)20 7724 2739

Notes to editors

Via Zenale, 3
20123 Milan
Italy

About the artist

241 Eldridge Street
10002 New York
USA

lissongallery.com

Anish Kapoor was born on 12 March 1954 in Bombay. He moved to London in the early 1970s where he has lived and worked ever since. He quickly gained international attention and acclaim for a series of solo exhibitions at venues including: Tate Gallery, London (1990-01); Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2003); Fondazione Prada, Milano (1995); Hayward Gallery, London (1998); BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (1999); Piazza del Plebiscito, Naples (1999); Kunsthaus Bregenz (2003); MAC Grand-Hornu, Belgium (2004); Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples (2004); Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin (2008) MAK, Vienna (2009); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2009); Pinchuk Arts Centre, Kiev (2010); and Guggenheim Bilbao (2010).

His major solo exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London in 2010 was one of the most successful ever presented by a contemporary artist in London.

He has participated in many group shows internationally including those at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts and Serpentine Gallery in London, Documenta IX in Kassel, Moderna Museet in Stockholm and Jeu de Paume and Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

He represented Britain at the Paris Biennale in 1982 and at the Venice Biennale in 1990, where he was awarded the 'Premio Duemila'. He won the Turner Prize in 1991 and he received the prestigious Unilever Commission for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in 2002, which he realised with the much-acclaimed work, *Marsyas*.

Throughout his career he has worked extensively with architects and engineers on projects including Tees Valley Giants, a series of five large-scale sculptures created in collaboration with the leading structural engineer, Cecil Balmond, the first of which, *Temenos*, will be unveiled in Middlesbrough in June 2010. He created the site-specific work, *The Farm* for the outdoor art gallery of the same name in Kaipara Bay, north of Auckland, New Zealand.

LISSON GALLERY

Among his major permanent commissions is Cloud Gate (2004) for the Millennium Park in Chicago, considered to be the most popular public artwork in the world. His permanent artwork for the London 2010 Olympic Park, the ArcelorMittal Orbit was created in collaboration with Cecil Balmond.

He was elected Royal Academician in 1999 and was awarded a CBE in 2003.

Exhibition Facts

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

Location: 29 Bell Street, London, NW1 5BY and 52-54 Bell Street, London, NW1 5DA

Tel: + 44(0)20 7724 2739

For press information and images please contact:

Toby Kidd and Amy Sutcliffe at Pelham Communications

Tel: +44 20 8969 3959;

Email: toby@pelhamcommunications.com or amys@pelhamcommunications.com

52-54 Bell Street
London NW1 5DA

T +44 (0)20 7724 2739

Via Zenale, 3
20123 Milan
Italy

241 Eldridge Street
10002 New York
USA

lissongallery.com