

# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

## ***Anthony Caro: The Inspiration of Architecture***

**9 March – 10 September 2023**



(L-R) **Child's Tower Room**, 1983/1984, Japanese oak, varnished, 150 x 108 x 108" Photo by John Riddy;  
**Autumn Rhapsody**, 2011, Steel and Perspex, 70 x 79 x 79 ins Photo by John Hammond

Anthony Caro (1924-2013), widely regarded as one of the 20th century's most influential sculptors, is the subject of Pitzhanger's spring exhibition, opening on what would have been his 99th birthday.

Caro heralded a revolution in sculpture in the 1960s, redefining what sculpture was and what it could be. His abstract constructions in painted steel overturned conventional ideas about materials, methods, surface, scale and space. Architecture was an important source of his inspiration, which he described as "*perhaps the purest abstract visual form.*"

The exhibition will focus on the resurgence and development of architectural themes within Caro's sculpture, comprising 16 key works created between 1983 and 2013. The pieces explore contained space and its relation to the human figure; architectural features such as passages, doors and steps in the form of sculpture; the use of specific materials – notably Caro's use of coloured Perspex, which echoes Soane's use of stained glass, as well as steel, wood, concrete, stoneware and brass; and the relationship between exterior and interior areas.

Highlights of the exhibition include *Child's Tower Room* (1983-4), the earliest work on display which breaches the boundaries between sculpture and architecture with spiral steps and hidden chambers, which children will be invited to explore within the exhibition. *Autumn Rhapsody* (2012-13) reveals Caro, at the end of his life, continuing to develop the language of sculpture with concealed, enclosed spaces that the viewer glimpses, here through surrounding walls of transparent Perspex. The climax of the exhibition is formed by four large works in which he explored the idea of transition from one place to another. A room devoted to small-scale sculptures will demonstrate the intimate nature of Caro's architectural language.

# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

Curator Paul Moorhouse, Chief Executive of the Anthony Caro Centre said: *"This new exhibition at Pitzhanger develops a fertile dialogue between Caro's sculpture and the unique character of Soane's building. The exhibition will evoke the connections between the respective languages of sculpture and architecture, providing insights into the shared ways that these disciplines shape our experience of the world, and intimating the rich expressive and imaginative possibilities inherent in each."*

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, said: *"We are honoured to be showing these seminal works by one of the greats of 20th-century sculpture. We're so delighted that this exhibition will encourage a fresh and innovative perspective on Soane's architecture and design at Pitzhanger."*

This exhibition follows Pitzhanger's series responding to the design and architecture of Pitzhanger, which has also included exhibitions by Anish Kapoor, Julian Opie and Es Devlin.

## ENDS

### NOTES TO EDITORS

For all media enquiries related to Anthony Caro: The Inspiration of Architecture at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, please contact Matthew Brown at [matthew@sam-talbot.com](mailto:matthew@sam-talbot.com)

For all other enquiries, please contact [pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk)

To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at [pitzhanger.org.uk](http://pitzhanger.org.uk)

Instagram | Twitter | Facebook: [@pitzhanger](https://www.instagram.com/pitzhanger)

### Listings Information

- Address: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Walpole Park, Ealing, London, W5 5EQ
- Nearest Station: Ealing Broadway (Elizabeth, Central & District lines (direct line to Reading and central/ east stations including Paddington and Tottenham Court Road from 6 November)
- Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-5pm (late opening Thursday: 10am-7pm)

### ABOUT ANTHONY CARO

Anthony Caro (1924 - 2013) played a pivotal role in the development of 20th-century sculpture. After studying sculpture at the Royal Academy Schools in London, he worked as assistant to Henry Moore. He came to public attention with a show at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1963, where he exhibited large abstract sculptures brightly painted and standing directly on the ground so that they engage the spectator on a one-to-one basis. This was a radical departure from the way sculpture had hitherto been seen and paved the way for future developments in three-dimensional art. Caro's teaching at St Martin's School of Art in London (1953 -1981) was very influential. His questioning approach opened up new possibilities, both formally and with regard to subject matter. His innovative work as well as his teaching led to a flowering and a new confidence in sculpture worldwide. Caro often worked in steel, but also in a diverse range of other materials, including bronze, silver, lead, stoneware, wood and paper. Major exhibitions include retrospectives at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1975), the Trajan Markets, Rome (1992), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (1995), Tate Britain, London (2005), and three museums in Pas-de-Calais,

# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

France (2008), to accompany the opening of his Chapel of Light at Bourbourg. He has been awarded many prizes, including the Praemium Imperiale for Sculpture in Tokyo in 1992 and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Sculpture in 1997. He holds many honorary degrees from universities in the UK, USA and Europe. He was knighted in 1987 and received the Order of Merit in May 2000.

## **ABOUT PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY**

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery's objective is to promote Sir John Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all within an extensive outreach and events programme. It celebrates Sir John Soane's genius and influence as a designer, juxtaposing his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to his original design, with support from HLF, ACE, Ealing Council and other generous donors.

## **ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE**

Sir John Soane (1753-1837) is one of Britain's most visionary architects, celebrated for his idiosyncratic take on the neoclassical style and mastery of natural light. Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800. He demolished most of the existing manor house apart from the Dance Wing and from 1800-1804, designed and built a new house as his country estate sitting in 28 acres of parkland. The legacy of Soane's distinctive buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects and designers.



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust, Mattock Lane, London, W5 5EQ  
[www.pitzhanger.org.uk](http://www.pitzhanger.org.uk) | [pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk](mailto:pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk) | +44 (0) 7756 866 739  
Charity Registration No.: 1152434 Company Registration No.: 08278049



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**