

Press Release

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THREE BEASTS BY LYNN CHADWICK JOIN THE SAINSBURY CENTRE SCULPTURE PARK AT UEA



As part of the Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2018, the Sainsbury Centre welcomes three monumental 'Beasts' by leading British sculptor Lynn Chadwick (1914 – 2003) which will take up residence in the Sculpture Park from 11 May 2018 – 31 August 2019. This project forms part of the 40th anniversary celebrations for the Sainsbury Centre. Generously lent by the Chadwick Estate and organised in association with Blain|Southern, the Beasts will be situated in the east end garden immediately outside the east façade of the Sainsbury Centre building.

The three large scale sculptures, *Crouching Beast II*, *Beast Alerted I* and *Lion I*, conceived in 1990, are animals captured in various states of dynamic action. Their stretching, crouching or resting poses are described through faceted, geometric planes of welded stainless-steel. The Beasts, completed late in Chadwick's career, continue a theme he had first begun to explore in

the early 1950s - figures and animals caught in various states of movement. He described this as capturing 'attitude,' saying "I would call it attitude...the way that you can actually make something almost talk by the way the neck is bent, or the attitude of the head".

Having trained as an architectural draughtsman, Chadwick was throughout his career particularly sensitive to the role of public sculpture in the context of modern architecture. He made two works for the Festival of Britain and his work was positioned in the public spaces of post-war cities and New Towns. For many architects of the 1950s and 60s Chadwick's work was seen to perfectly complement the striking modern style of much new public architecture and urban space.

This project will situate Chadwick's Beasts, in the context of the both Norman Foster's Sainsbury Centre, one of Britain's foremost steel space frame buildings, and Denys Lasdun's monumental, Brutalist campus architecture for the University of East Anglia. The Beasts brilliantly reflect a spirit of architectural experimentation in both the forms of their construction and the use of steel as a material for sculpture.

The project will also continue the momentum built with the installation of Anthony Gormley's 3x ANOTHER TIME and *Tatlin's Tower* in 2017. The Sculpture Park consists of 320 acres of natural and the built environment on the UEA campus and combines iconic architecture, art and nature in an outdoor space free for everyone to enjoy.

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Notes to Editors

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About Lynn Chadwick

Lynn Chadwick was one of the leading British sculptors of post-war Britain, known primarily for metal works often inspired by the human form and the natural world, but which also at times seemed close to abstraction. He was born in Barnes, London in 1914 and died at his home Lypiatt Park, Gloucestershire, in 2003, aged 88.

Chadwick was launched on to the international stage as one of a new generation of British sculptors exhibiting at the British Pavilion of the 1952 Venice Biennale. Four years later, representing Great Britain at the 1956 Venice Biennale, where he won the coveted International Prize for Sculpture ahead of established artists such as Alberto Giacometti.

Abandoning the stone and wood carving methods of pre-war sculpture, Chadwick's approach to making sculpture was instinctual; engaging in the physical activity of making without preliminary drawings, where practical improvisation resulted in works imbued with a unique intensity and presence.

"It seems to me", Chadwick said, "that art must be the manifestation of some vital force coming from the dark, caught by the imagination and translated by the artist's ability and skill. Whatever the final shape, the force behind is... indivisible." Listener, 1954

Recent solo exhibitions include; Lynn Chadwick, The Rotunda, One Exchange Square, Hong Kong, CH (2016); Lynn Chadwick, Skulpturenpark Wuppertal, DE (2015); Lynn Chadwick, Retrospective for Two Gardens, Bardini Gardens and Boboli Gardens, Florence, IT (2015); Lynn Chadwick: Retrospectives, Blain|Southern London, Berlin and Blain Di|Donna New York, (2014); Lynn Chadwick RA, Royal Academy of Arts Courtyard, London, UK (2014).

Lynn Chadwick's sculptures feature in the collections of most major museums, including MoMA, New York; Tate Gallery, London; and Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

Lynn Chadwick at Cliveden 2 May – 14th October 2018

An exhibition of Chadwick's large-scale bronze and steel sculptures installed over twelve sites across Cliveden's gardens, working to enhance and invite reconsideration of the landscape and vistas of these historic Grade I listed grounds.

blainsouthern.com/news/lynn-chadwick-at-cliveden

About the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre was established when Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury generously gave their art collection to the University of East Anglia in 1973. The building was designed by Norman Foster and opened in 1978.

For over 40 years, Robert and Lisa Sainsbury collected works of art which ranged across time and place. They sought work both from major European artists, as well as art and antiquities from different periods and cultures around the world. The Sainsburys were equally radical in commissioning the young Norman Foster in 1974 as the architect for the new building to house their works. Robert Sainsbury saw Foster's innovative building as the great jewel of the Sainsbury Collection.

The Sainsbury Centre is one of the most prominent university art galleries in Britain, and a major national centre for the study and presentation of art. As well as housing the Sainsburys' art collection, one of the few intact modernist collections of the 20th century with many seminal works by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Francis Bacon, Jacob Epstein, Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti, and Amedeo Modigliani, it also displays the Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau and the University's Abstract and Constructivist Collection. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of temporary exhibitions in the new galleries, which provide the largest climate-controlled exhibition space in Eastern England.

scva.ac.uk

About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary art gallery based in London and Berlin. The gallery represents an international roster of contemporary artists and is the world-wide representative of The Estate of Lynn Chadwick. The gallery's recent exhibitions include James White, Jake & Dinos Chapman, Michael Simpson, Bernar Venet, Mat Collishaw, Jonas Burgert, Amy Feldman, Tim Noble & Sue Webster and the critically acclaimed group show, *Revolt of the Sage*.

blainsouthern.com

About Norfolk & Norwich Festival

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is the flagship arts festival for the East of England with a reputation for innovative and inspirational programming and commissioning. One of the big four UK international arts festivals, each May we transform and celebrate our city and county through an internationally acclaimed programme of music, theatre, literature, visual arts, circus, dance and outdoor arts, enjoyed by around 70,000 people. The organisation has been an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation since April 2012 and is one of 10 Bridge Organisations with a mandate to develop arts and cultural opportunities for children and young people in the East of England. Norfolk & Norwich Festival is funded and supported by Arts Council England, Norwich City Council and the generous support of other sponsors and donors. Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2018 runs from 11- 27 May.

nffestival.org.uk