

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRYAN KNEALE

THROUGH THE ELLIPSE

PANGOLIN
LONDON

28th September - 5th November 2022



Bryan Kneale, *Doon*, 2022, polyurethane and bronze sphere, unique, 122 x 90 x 33.7 cm

Still working at the age of 92, Bryan Kneale RA MBE has had a career spanning almost six decades as one of Britain's most renowned sculptors. Pangolin London is delighted to present a selection of the artist's most recent work, bringing together an extraordinary selection of paintings and sculptures from the last five years.

At the heart of this show are two new monumental metal sculptures - the mesmerising stainless steel Centurion and the enigmatic bronze Coral. Originally conceived as an installation for the Isle of Man, the pieces have been designed to sit along the ancient volcanic coastline of Scarlett, where the elliptical void in their centres will allow for the surrounding landscape to be incorporated into the work. This void-space also appears in other sculptures, as well as a number of paintings. According to Kneale,

this form represents the inescapable reality of death, inspired by Paul-Albert Bartholomé's 1899 Monument aux Morts from the Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris. As he recalls:

In the end of the cemetery is a thing like a wall, with a large void space in the centre, which a series of figures, men and women, are moving endlessly toward, which of course is the end of life. I thought it was very affecting, and very memorable, so to some extent, I suppose, so too are these things I've made myself, they resonate for me with that piece.

BRYAN KNEALE



Centurion, 2021, Stainless steel, Unique, 181 x 130.5 x 54.5 cm



Sunbeam, 2020, Acrylic on styrene, Unique, 60 x 53.7 cm

Alongside these sculptures are a series of paintings on styrene sheets. The perfectly flat surface of this ground is contrasted by the sculptural forms of thick paint applied with a palette knife. Imbued with a palpable *joie de vivre*, works like *Duma*, *Star 1* and *Sunbeam* are charged with an ebullient energy. *Miracle* is a work of particular significance; the title was given by Kneale to mark this 'revelation' in his practice after having found a way to continue painting following a severe stroke in 2014.

This excitement for making new work has been ever-present throughout Kneale's career, and he shows no signs of slowing down. In his own words: 'I will continue to work for as long as I live.'

A fully illustrated catalogue will be available on request.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES CONTACT: ALGERNON MITCHELL | GALLERY@PANGOLINLONDON.COM

PANGOLIN LONDON, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG
T: 020 7520 1480 www.pangolinlondon.com

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Born in the Isle of Man in 1930, Bryan Kneale attended the Douglas School of Art in 1947 before leaving to attend the Royal Academy Schools in 1948, where he was awarded the prestigious Rome Prize. Travelling Italy extensively he was greatly affected and influenced by his visits to Paestum and Pompeii, as well as by the contemporary work of the futurists and metaphysical painters. Upon his return to London Kneale began using a palette knife as a tool for painting, constructing the work; his paintings gained a strong following and he painted the portraits of Richard Attenborough and Normal Parkinson to name but a few. However, painting in this manner soon ceased to interest Kneale and in 1959, his thoughts still on sculpture, he learnt to forge and weld. His solo exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1966 followed.



Duma, 2020, Acrylic on styrene, Unique, 65 x 64.7 cm

The first abstract sculptor to be elected to the R.A, he very quickly went on to mount 'British Sculptors', the seminal exhibition of Modern British Sculpture at the Royal Academy in 1972. An exhibition of the work of twenty-four sculptors working in the UK at the time, it has since been described as the most groundbreaking exhibition of contemporary sculpture held in Britain. He also curated the Jubilee exhibition of British Sculpture in Battersea Park in 1977. Bryan Kneale's career as a teacher began at the Royal College of Art in 1952, becoming Head of Sculpture in 1985 and Professor of Drawing in 1990.



Due, 2020, Acrylic on styrene, Unique, 34.5 x 61.5 cm

PANGOLIN LONDON, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG
T: 020 7520 1480 www.pangolinlondon.com