

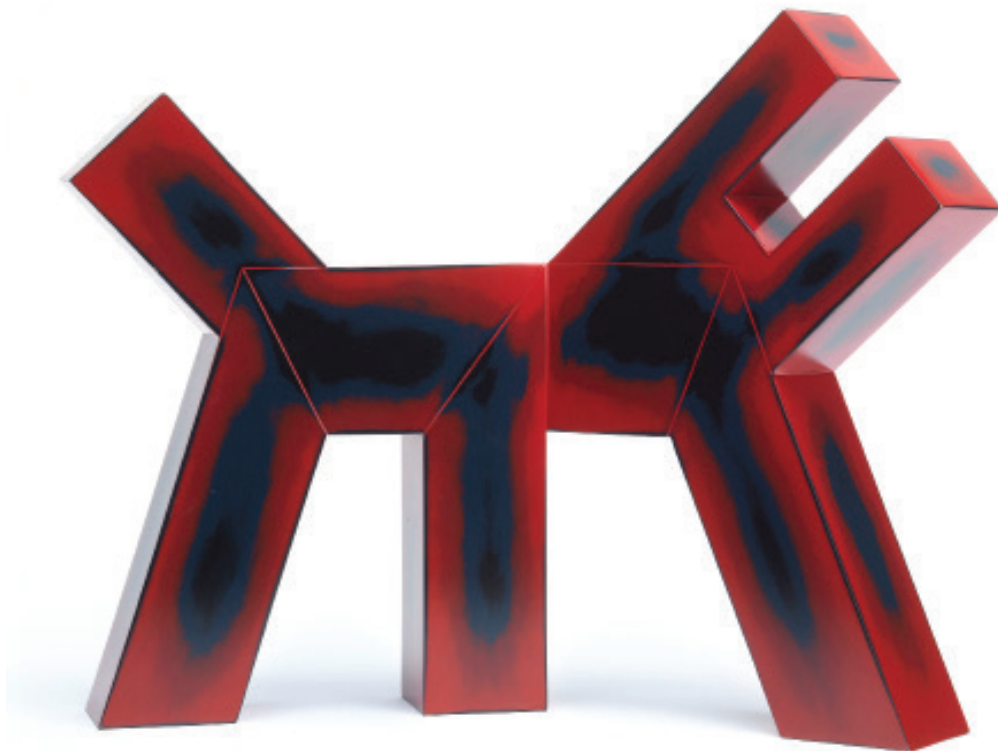
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For further information contact:  
Celia Bailey at Paget PR  
0208 239 9482  
celia@pagetpr.com

# JON BUCK

## CODED FOR COLOUR

15th May - 27th JUNE 2015



MAQUETTE FOR RECALLING THE DOG 2014, BRONZE

*"The craving for colour is a natural necessity just as for water or fire. Colour is the raw material indispensable for life. At every era of his existence and his history, the human being has associated colour with his joys, his actions and his pleasures".*

Fernand Leger, On Monumentality and Colour

Consider the once gaudily painted Acropolis in Athens, the brightly coloured steel minimalism of the New Generation, Anthony Caro's vivid red 'Early One Morning' or more recently Katharina Fritsch's fibreglass 'Hahn/Cock'. Colour in sculpture is not a new phenomenon. The development of vibrant colour in bronze however is, and Jon Buck's work over the past three decades has continued to push its boundaries. 'Coded for Colour' will chart this intriguing journey from Buck's early, brightly painted resin sculptures to a new, striking and monumental bronze.

PAN  
GOLIN  
LONDON

Kings Place  
90 York Way  
London  
N1 9AG

020 7520 1480

Brightness of colour and the totemic characters of the dog and bird are distinctive features of Jon Buck's sculpture. Features that are in part inspired from his experiences working as birdkeeper at Bristol Zoo in his youth. His focus on colour however derives from something much deeper. Colour is a major part of the human experience; a signalling system that evokes an emotional response. The stimulation of the emotional senses for Buck is the essence of what the visual arts attempts to achieve. Powerful images elicit a feeling, an emotional response, first and foremost and only then does that evoke an opinion, a thought or an intellectual idea.

In line with the contemporary shift from the Modernist ideology Jon Buck's early sculptures were highly coloured and cast in polyester resin, an aesthetic that also reflected the flexibility that the creation of new materials such as plastics allowed. These early works formed part of a new wave of sculpture; 'Superhumanism'. It was searching for a durability to his sculpture that led Buck to casting in bronze however the reduced colour palette of black, green and brown that traditional patination allowed meant Buck concentrated on refining form and surface in his work.

Over many years of experimentation vibrant colour has been allowed to return to Buck's work, becoming an integral part of his sculpture. Initial experiments with new and highly inventive chemical patinas, then raw pigments and finally with paint have pushed the boundaries of what can be achieved with a medium usually associated with dull tones releasing bronze sculpture from its traditional constraints. This exhibition seeks to share Jon Buck's exciting adventure over the past three decades where new processes and patinas have been devised to bring into being an extraordinary artist's vision and a highlight of the exhibition will be the brand new sculpture 'Recalling the Dog'.

Jon Buck studied at Nottingham and Manchester Art Schools. He is a Member of the Royal West of England Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. He has completed many public commissions including 'Returning to Embrace' for Canary Wharf in London and 'Ship to Shore' for Portishead Quays. His work is regularly exhibited both in UK and abroad and is held in many public and private collections.

To coincide with the exhibition a new film has been commissioned about Buck's work, produced by Distant Object Productions and a fully illustrated catalogue will also be available.

*Gallery open Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm*

*For further information please contact:*

Celia Bailey at Paget PR  
celia@pagetpr.com  
0208 239 9482

Tania Moore at Pangolin London  
gallery@pangolinlondon.com  
0207 520 1480

PANGOLIN  
LONDON

Kings Place  
90 York Way  
London  
N1 9AG

020 7520 1480