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CONJUNCTION:

LYNN CHADWICK & GEOFFREY CLARKE

23 October - 28 November 2015



Pangolin London is proud to present the works of Lynn Chadwick and Geoffrey Clarke, two of the greatest modern British sculptors of the 20th Century, together in their exhibition, *Conjunction*. The exhibition is the first show to focus exclusively on the prolific careers of these two British sculptural powerhouses.

Lynn Chadwick (1914-2003) hardly needs an introduction. He is the pre-eminent sculptor of his generation present in every major collection of Post War art. His contemporary Geoffrey Clarke (1924-2014) was a pioneer in casting aluminium and his fearless experimentation saw him create works that epitomise the vibrancy of the post-war British art scene. *Conjunction* will provide a rare opportunity to experience a vast selection of works, spanning across a five-decade time period, allowing visitors to experience the intertwining similarities, and differences of their visual language.

Both hailing from architectural backgrounds, Clarke the son of an architect, and Chadwick initially training as an architectural draughtsman before the war, completed the same welding course at the British Oxygen Company in Cricklewood in the summer of 1950. The ability to weld, a technique not yet taught at art school brought exciting new ground to a generation of sculptors that were reacting against the traditionalist 'truth to materials' of Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore.

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This was illustrated in the groundbreaking 'New Aspects of British Sculpture' exhibition at the British Pavilion at the 1952 Venice Biennale. Launching both Chadwick and Clarke on to an international stage; their spiky, angular abstractions of human and animal forms captured the mood of the post-war angst; leading themselves and the six fellow sculptors exhibiting to be labelled the "geometry of fear" sculptors.

Although initially sharing a similar visual language, Clarke and Chadwick's styles diverged as their careers progressed. Clarke enjoyed many public and ecclesiastical commissions, which stemmed from his work in Coventry Cathedral under Sir Basil Spence. In contrast Chadwick seldom accepted public commissions, and one of the highlights of the exhibition are the maquettes for two of Chadwick's rare commissions *Maquette for R34* 1957 and *Manchester Sun* 1963.

Further highlights include both Clarke and Chadwick's entries to *The Unknown Political Prisoner*, a worldwide sculpture competition organised by the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Although the competition was won by Reg Butler, both artist's entries have not been exhibited together since 1953. The exhibition also includes the candlesticks commissioned from Clarke for Coventry Cathedral and a monumental Chadwick will be installed by the canalside at Kings Place. Developing their reputation for museum-quality exhibitions of Modern British Sculpture Pangolin London will also display numerous works from private collections which have not been previously shown in public. An exciting range of sculpture, prints and drawings will also be available for sale. Prices range between £500 to in excess of £1 million.

EDITORS NOTES

Examples of Geoffrey Clarke and Lynn Chadwick's works can be found in numerous international museums and private collections including Tate Britain, London; MoMA, New York; Arts Council Collection, London; Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Geoffrey Clarke was the most commissioned sculptor of the 20th century and was elected an RA in December 1975. Subsequently; Chadwick went onto win the International Prize for sculpture at the 1956 Venice Biennale, over the more established and favoured, Alberto Giacometti. He was awarded a CBE in 1964 and was elected an RA in 2001.

Gallery open Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

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