

# David Nash

David Nash was born in Esher, England in 1945. He lives and works in Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales where, at the end of the 1960s, he renovated a shepherd's house with a chapel, and set up his studio there. Very quickly he turned to sculptures in wood, allowing the shape suggested by the tree to guide him.

"Rather than coming up with an idea and trying to find a suitable piece, I have always allowed the material to seduce me. Everything comes from the tree, from its shape and its essence." <sup>1</sup>

David Nash uses a variety of "tools" from the axe and the chainsaw to fire and water; he is also a skilled artist, drawing with pencils, chalk and stencils. He often allows the seasons to transform his sculptures, thus integrating them into the natural evolutionary cycle. Not only is he a sculptor, but David Nash is a sort of gardener: he plants and raises his trees, guiding their shapes with timely interventions. Indeed, an appreciation of time and a respect for nature are as important to his work as a saw or an axe. Like the Ancient Chinese, he considers wood to be the fifth element and he uses the four others to work it: land to feed it, air to dry it, water and fire to obtain the desired patina. David Nash started to make more frequent use of fire in the 1980s; according to Amanda Farr, "he realised that he could transform the vegetal into mineral, tree into carbon." <sup>2</sup>

His formal vocabulary is made up of cubes, spheres and triangles, as well as arcs, domes and columns. Colour is also an important element in his artistic work. "Of the minimalist generation that preceded his own [he] retained a taste for simple shapes and a rejection of decoration over a subtle use of proportions." <sup>3</sup> For the artist, if the shape is to express itself, it must be at one with various parameters, namely the material, the space and the movement. These shapes can be found not only in his sculptures but also in his works on paper, the square giving structure to the material, while the triangle, space and circle provide movement. In his mind, each of the geometric shapes is linked to a colour: a red square, a yellow triangle, a blue circle. Nash the artist uses pastels and coloured charcoals, often bright red, which dialogue with the raw or burned woods and also with the bronzes. Some drawings are displayed in frames made from burned wood by the artist himself.

Another aspect of his output, the "living works", are very revealing of his desire to insert his sculptures into nature. The most famous is the *Ash Dome*, designed in the mid-1970s. David Nash planted 22 ash trees in a circle and as they have grown, he has used traditional techniques to model the shape of their branches, in order to create a vegetal dome.

David Nash has been a member of the Royal Academy since 1999. His work, which is widely represented in the leading museums of America, Australia and Japan, has been the focus of retrospectives at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2010), Kew Gardens (2012), and the Museum of Cardiff (2019) in the United Kingdom, and the Fondation Fernet-Branca in France (2018). In addition, he has produced works in situ in sculpture parks such as the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire (*Thirteen Reds* and *Tumble Block*, 2013).

<sup>1</sup> Marie Maertens, "Visite d'atelier: David Nash", in *Connaissance des Art*, May 2018

<sup>2</sup> Amanda Farr, "Le vert et le noir", in David Nash, *Twmps and Eggs*, Repères n°127, 2004, p. 13

<sup>3</sup> Jean Frémon, "Le cinquième élément" in David Nash, *Line of cut*, Repères n° 108, 2000, p. 11

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

## Solo shows (selection)

2023

*Sculptures et papiers*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Matignon, Paris, France

*Seeing Trees*, Oriel Môn, Llangefni, United Kingdom

2022

*Full Circle*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park Centre and The Weston Gallery, Wakefield, United Kingdom

2021

*The Many Voices Of The Trees*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2020

*Red, Black & Blue*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Matignon, Paris, France

2019

*200 Seasons*, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne

*David Nash: Sculpture through the Seasons*, Musée National, Cardiff, United Kingdom

2018

*Column*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

*Nature to nature*, Fondation Fernet Branca, Saint Louis, France

*Wood, Metal, Pigment*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, France

*First the tree, then the form*, Museum Lothar Fischer, Neumarkt, Germany

2017

*Tree Seasons*, Plas Glyn-y-Weddw, Gwynedd, United Kingdom

2016

*Columns, Peaks and Torso*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2015

*David Nash*, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, Republic of Korea

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

*Three Black Humps*, Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Shropshire, United Kingdom

2014

*Prints & Multiples*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2012

*David Nash - Black & Red : Bronze & Wood*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

*David Nash Pastels and Sculptures*, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

*A Natural Gallery*, Kew Gardens, London, United Kingdom

2011

*Red, Black, Other*, Mostyn, Llandudno, United Kingdom

2010

*David Nash*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield, United Kingdom

*Crack & Warp Column: David Nash*, Missoula Art Museum MAM, Missoula, United States

2009

*Monumental Sculpture*, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

*Drawings and Sculptures*, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, United Kingdom

2008

*Naturformen*, ALTANA Kulturstiftung im Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg, Germany

2007

*David Nash*, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, Republic of Korea

*With the Grain - Wood Sculpture*, Lewes Town Hall, Sussex, United Kingdom

2005

*David Nash*, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

*The Language of Wood/Sculpture and Drawings*, Mead Art Museum, Amherst, United States

2004

*Twmps and Eggs*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

*David Nash*, Tate St. Ives, St. Ives, United Kingdom

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2003

*Holzskulpturen*, Gerhard Marcks Haus, Bremen, Germany

*Roche Beech*, Roche Court New Art Centre, Salisbury, United Kingdom

*David Nash*, David Winton Bell Gallery, Providence, United States

2002

*David Nash*, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2001

*Sculptures*, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

2000

*Line of cut*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

*Chwarel Goed - Wood Quarry*, Centre for Visual Arts, Cardiff, United Kingdom

1998

*David Nash*, Parc Régional Tournay-Solvay, Brussels, Belgium

1996

*A survey*, Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen (MuHKA), Antwerp, Belgium

*Line of Cut*, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, United Kingdom

1995

*Otoineppu Spirit Of Three Seasons*, The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura, Kamakura, Japan

*Voyages And Vessels*, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, United States

*Voyages And Vessels*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego - MCASD Downtown, San Diego, United States

*Voyages and Vessels*, The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA), Madison, United States

1994

*David Nash*, Santa Monica Museum of Art (SMMoA), Santa Monica, United States

*Voyages And Vessels*, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1993

*The Spirit of Three Seasons*, Otoineppu, Japan

1990

*Chêne & frêne de Pierre-de-Bresse*, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Calais, Calais, France

*Pictures for the Sky: Art Kites*, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

*Fragments Of Recent Commissions*, Frith Street Gallery, London, United Kingdom

*Sculpture 1971-90*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1989

*En villégiature*, Centre international d'art et du paysage de l'île de Vassivière, Ile de Vassivière, France

1987

*Funagata Works*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

1985

*Divided oaks*, Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, Netherlands

1983

*Sixty Seasons. A survey of sculpture, drawings and outdoor work*, The Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

*Sixty Seasons. A survey of sculpture, drawings and outdoor work*, Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA), Glasgow, United Kingdom

*Sixty Seasons. A survey of sculpture, drawings and outdoor work*, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, United Kingdom

1982

*Wood Quarry*, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, Netherlands

1979

*David Nash*, Arnolfini, Bristol, United Kingdom

1976

*Loosely Held Grain*, Arnolfini, Bristol, United Kingdom

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

## Group shows (selection)

2019

*SO BRITISH ! 10 chefs-d'oeuvre de la collection Pinault*, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, France

2016

*Choices Paris 2016*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

2012

*Works on Paper - Summer Sale - An international collection*, Art Affairs Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2010

*Crucible 2010*, Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester, United Kingdom

*Summer Exhibition 2010*, Royal academy, London, United Kingdom

2006

*Selections from the Collection of Edward R. Broida*, The National Gallery of Art, Washington, United States

2005

*Effervescence, la sculpture anglaise dans les collections publiques française*, Musée d'Angers, Angers, France

*Henry Moore: Epoche und Echo – Englische Bildhauerei im 20. Jahrhundert*, Kunsthalle Würth, Künzelsau, Germany

2003

*In Retrospect: Thirty Sculptors*, Gallery Pangolin, Chalford, United Kingdom

2002

*Shift*, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

1995

*Here and Now: Twenty-five years of British Sculpture from 1970 to the present*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

*Sculptors' Drawings 1945-90*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, United States

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1989

*Pictures for the Sky: Art Kites*, The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Takasaki, Japan

*Pictures for the Sky: Art Kites*, The Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya, Japan

1988

*Britannica: Trente Ans de Sculpture*, Musée d'art moderne André Malraux (MuMa), Le Havre, France

*Pictures for the Sky: Art Kites*, The Museum of Modern Art Shiga, Shiga, Japan

*A Quiet Revolution: British Sculpture Since 1965*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, United States

*A Quiet Revolution: British Sculpture Since 1965*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, United States

1987

*A Quiet Revolution: British Sculpture Since 1965*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA), Chicago, United States

*Emerging artists 1978-1986 : Selections from the Exxon series*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, United States

1986

*Transformations in sculpture. four decades of American and European art*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, United States

1983

*53-83: Three Decades of Artists from Inner London Art Schools*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom

*The Sculpture Show*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1982

*Art and the Sea*, Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA), London, United Kingdom

1981

*British Sculpture in the Twentieth Century, Part II: Symbol and Imagination 1951-80*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1980

*British art now : An American Perspective - 1980 Exxon International Exhibition*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, United States

## Biennials (selection)

2015

*Blickachsen 10*, Skulpturenbiennale Blickachsen, Bad Homburg, Germany

## Public collections (selection)

Cass Sculpture Foundation, Chichester

Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds

Royal Academy of Arts, London

Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton

Tate Britain, London

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen (MuHKA), Antwerp, Belgium

Espoo Museum of Modern Art (EMMA), Espoo, Finland

Kiasma - Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

Collection Guerlain, Paris, France

Collection Pinault, Paris, France

FRAC Limousin, Limoges, France

Musée National d'Art Moderne - MNAM, Paris, France

ALTANA Kulturstiftung im Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg, Germany

Kunsthalle in Emden, Emden, Germany

Museum Biedermann / Museum Art.Plus, Donaueschingen, Germany



# Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany

Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland

Iwaki City Art Museum, Iwaki, Japan

Centro de Arte y Naturaleza - Fundación Beulas (CDAN), Huesca, Spain

Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson, Madrid, Spain

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, United Kingdom

Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, United States

Laumeier Sculpture Park, Saint Louis, United States

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, United States

MOCA Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, United States

National Museum Washington, Washington, United States

San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, United States

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, United States