

Press Release
22 July 2020

Anish Kapoor at the Sainsbury Centre: Presented in association with Houghton Hall



The Sainsbury Centre is delighted to announce a new East End gallery display of two alabaster stone sculptures by Anish Kapoor: *Involute*, 2017 (left) and *Untitled*, 2010 (right). This is presented as part of a major exhibition on show across the grounds and historic interiors of Houghton Hall and would not be possible without the support of the Houghton Arts Foundation.

High-resolution images available for download: <https://bit.ly/3911jYF>

Anish Kapoor is considered one of the most important sculptors working today. Born in 1954, Kapoor started exhibiting his seminal pigment works in the early 80s and rose to prominence as part of the New British Sculpture movement. This generation of sculptors found a renewed interest in traditional materials long associated with sculpture and techniques such as carving in stone.

Kapoor has gone on to work in a diverse range of materials, from wax, PVC and silicone to fibreglass, steel and cement, to create unique and often breath-taking sculptural languages. He has exhibited around the globe and has become internationally recognised for his often large scale works that traverse the boundaries of sculpture and architecture. Works such as *Marsyas* (2002) exhibited in Tate's Turbine Hall and *Cloud Gate* (2004) in Millennium Park Chicago, one of the most iconic pieces of public art created in recent times, iterate Kapoor's enduring concern with the states of absence and presence, form and non-form.

The two alabaster works that Kapoor has selected to show at the Sainsbury Centre have been created through the carving process of negative space into positive form; they demonstrate Kapoor's interest in the void, of deep dark space and the interior state of the object.

The sculptures also resonate with works in the Sainsbury Centre Collection, such as vessel forms from the ancient world of Egyptian and Cycladic or the modernist abstractions and biomorphic forms of Eduardo Chillida, Jean Arp and Henry Moore. They will be displayed in the central bay of the East End gallery until 1 November.

Lord Cholmondeley of Houghton Hall says: “We are delighted to be able to support the installation of these beautiful works by Anish Kapoor, continuing the link between the Sainsbury Centre and the Houghton Arts Foundation. We hope that visitors to the Centre including UEA students – may wish to come on to Houghton to see the largest exhibition of Kapoor’s outdoor works ever mounted in the UK.”

Calvin Winner, Head of Collections at the Sainsbury Centre, says: “Kapoor is a world-renowned sculptor and it is a great privilege to present his work at the Sainsbury Centre for the first time. We hope visitors will enjoy seeing these sculptures alongside the accompanying exhibition at Houghton Hall.”

The works are free to view at the Sainsbury Centre. Visit sainsburycentre.ac.uk, email scva@uea.ac.uk or call 01603 593199 Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm for visitor enquiries.

Anish Kapoor at Houghton Hall runs from 12 July to 1 November 2020.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

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About the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is one of the most important public university art galleries in Britain. It was founded in 1973 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the support of one of the nation’s great philanthropic families, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury who donated their extraordinary art collection which includes works dating from prehistory to the late twentieth century from across the globe. A radical new building by Norman Foster was designed to house the collection and was his first public work.

The Sainsbury Centre holds one of the most impressive art collections outside of the national institutions. It includes a significant number of works by modern masters of European art such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Francis Bacon, Jacob Epstein, Jean Arp, Chaïm Soutine and Amedeo Modigliani. There is also a remarkable collection of art and antiquities dating from prehistory to the late twentieth century from across the globe. There are major holdings from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as Medieval Europe. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of exhibitions in the largest suite of temporary exhibitions galleries in Eastern England. sainsburycentre.ac.uk

About Houghton Hall

Built in the 1720s for Great Britain’s first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, Houghton Hall is one of Norfolk’s most beautiful stately homes and remains one of England’s finest Palladian houses. A collaboration between the two defining British architects of the age and with lavish interiors by William Kent, Houghton was built with an eye to reflecting the wealth, taste, and power of its owner.

During the eighteenth century, Walpole also amassed one of the greatest collections of European art in Britain, and Houghton became a museum to the collection. There is now an impressive collection of contemporary sculpture and changing exhibitions by world renowned artists displayed in the house, gardens and grounds. houghtonhall.com