

Galerie Louis Gendre

David Nash

November 6th, 2019 – January 11th, 2020

Opening November 6th – 6pm

After a major retrospective at the National Museum in Cardiff, but also at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and at Kew Gardens in England, as well as a new exhibition at the galerie Lelong & Co. in Paris, the galerie Louis Gendre is showing sculptures, pastels, charcoals and pochoirs by David Nash in Chamalières, France. Well-known for his burnt wood sculptures, from the 28th of September to the 2nd of February 2020, a new retrospective of his work is also on show at the Tower Art Gallery in Eastbourne, housing one of the most important public art collections in the South of England.



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Water, Air, Fire

A work by David Nash moves us without warning. Directly. It yields to us and surrenders. So silently but with such absolute force. With all the impact of an unfiltered or recomposed reality depending on the aesthetic scheme of things. An immediate reality due to its most concrete and most undefined aspect, that is to say material. All of Nash's art is about revealing Nature and Life itself through his favourite material, wood. "Rather than elaborating an idea and trying to find the right material, I have always been attracted by wood. Everything about it inspires me, from its form to its essence", reveals the British artist settled for more than forty years in North Wales, the mysterious land of his ancestors. Here, the sculptor looks around him. Enters into a state of symbiosis. Listens again to the slightest crackle of bark warmed by the sun, or the groans of branches in the rain. This is how he converses with the forest and its trees, their trunks and branches... He lets himself be attracted, invaded and then seduced. By the endless lines and ramifications, the unpredictable reliefs and sudden puckering, by the vast and smooth expanses and unexpected crevasses. Utterly bewitched. On return to his huge studio, previously a chapel, where the light penetrates through the stained glass windows before alighting on his own personal museum - his never-ending columns reaching for the sky in the footsteps of Brancusi whom he admires so much - David Nash delicately weaves and intertwines young shoots or cuts and chisels the wood with a chain saw or carves with a blowtorch. Nothing but himself and nature. Air, water and fire. A Master of Land Art, he fashions his work with the same respect as a hedger of bonsai or a master of Chinese calligraphy. It calls for the fast and precise brush stroke of Shitao, the Bitter Gourd Monk. His hand is just as sure in the outline of a drawing in pastels and charcoals as it is in the making of a sculpture, sometimes monumental and fragile, launching itself into vertical flight in a rhythmic and harmonious connection between the earth and the sky, between the terrestrial the spiritual.



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Mad about simple shapes like the square, triangle and circle, everywhere he metamorphoses a tree into a spiral or pyramid, into forms each one more surprising than the other, yet always geometric and basic. In this way, since the 1970s David Nash works on the substance of things, as if to provoke an opening. Or even better. By questioning the origins and showing us the way.

Anne Kerner



Photos @Courtesy of David Nash and Galerie Lelong & Co.

David Nash

Opening November 6 – 6pm
Show November 7, 2019 – January 11, 2020.

Wednesday – Friday, 2pm – 7pm
Saturday 10am – 6pm

Further information and contact:

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