

## David Nash

David Nash was born in 1945 in Esher, England. He lives and works in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales.

David Nash early dedicated himself to sculpture in wood, letting himself be guided by the trees' inherent shapes. "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> He uses a variety of "tools", from axe and chainsaw to fire and water. Often, he lets his sculpture be transformed by the seasons, integrating it into a natural evolutionary cycle.

Nash is a kind of gardener: he plants trees, guiding their shapes with timely interventions. 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 uses the other four to sculpt it: earth, to feed it; air, to dry it; water and fire, to obtain the desired patina. Nash started making more frequent use of fire in the 1980s.

Nash's formal vocabulary is composed of cubes, spheres and triangles, as well as arcs, domes and columns. "From the minimalist generation that preceded his own, he retained a taste for simple shapes, and a rejection of decoration in favour of a subtle use of proportions." <sup>2</sup> For the artist, if shape has self-expression, it must be at one with material, space and movement. These shapes can be found not only in his sculpture but also in his work on paper: the square structures the material, the triangle defines space, and the circle provides movement. Each of the geometric shapes is associated with a colour: a red square, a yellow triangle, a blue circle. A skilled draughtsman working with pencils, chalk and stencils, Nash uses pastels and coloured charcoals to dialogue with wood, raw or burned, and with bronze. Some of his drawings are presented in frames made by him from burned wood.

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 featured in retrospectives at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2010), Kew Gardens (2012), the Museum of Cardiff (2019) and the Fondation Fernet-Branca (2018). He has produced works in situ in

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sculpture parks, for example in 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> Jean Frémon, “Le cinquième élément”, in David Nash, *Line of cut*, Repères n° 108, 2000, p. 11

## Solo shows (selection)

2024

*45 Years of Drawing*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

*Arboretum*, Springhornhof, Neuenkirchen, Germany

*45 Years of Drawing*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, United Kingdom

2023

*Sculptures et papiers*, Galerie Lelong, 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, Paris, France

2020

*Red, Black & Blue*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2019

*200 Seasons*, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne

*Trees*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

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

2018

*Column*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

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*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

*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

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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

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

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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

1993

*The Spirit of Three Seasons*, Otoineppu, Japan

1990

*Chêne & frêne de Pierre-de-Bresse*, Musee 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

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*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

## Group shows (selection)

2022

*Earth – Digging Deep in British Art, 1715-2022*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, United Kingdom

*Forest – Wake this Ground*, Arnolfini, Bristol, United Kingdom

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

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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

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

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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

1984

*International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture*, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York City, 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

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)



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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

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium

Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium

Stedelijk Museum, Aalst, Belgium

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark

EMMA, Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Helsinki, Finland

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

Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany

Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland

Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan

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Iwaki City Art Museum, Iwaki, Japan

Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan

Nagoya City Museum, Nagoya, Japan

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Ho-Am Art Museum, Seoul, Republic of Korea

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Republic of Korea

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

Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson, Madrid, Spain

National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

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