

Barry Flanagan

Barry Flanagan (1941-2009) born Prestatyn, North Wales, died in Ibiza. He studied architecture at Birmingham College of Art and Crafts and after spells at different colleges was accepted on the Vocational Diploma in Sculpture at St. Martin's School of Art in London in 1964. Flanagan graduated in 1966 and taught at St. Martin's School of Art and the Central School of Arts and Crafts, between 1967 and 1971. In 1991 was elected to the Royal Academy and he received the OBE.

From the outset Flanagan's work has been perceived as radical and independent. He revolutionised sculptural material when in 1965, while still a student, he showed the soft sculpture *aaing j gni aa*, 1965 at Better Books, Charing Cross Road (bought by the Tate Gallery in 1969); works such as this and *4 casb 2 '67*, 1967 changed ideas about the language of sculpture forever. Flanagan was interested in pataphysics, Alfred Jarry's "science of imaginary solutions" and this ethos is evident in the playfulness of his approach, which allows materials to find their own sculptural form, whether sand, or rope, stone, sheet metal, cloth, clay or bronze. He was included in the exhibition, *Between Poetry and Painting* at the ICA also in 1965 when he contributed a finger poem, this was one of many examples of concrete poetry in the exhibition. His first solo exhibition was held at the Rowan Gallery, London in 1966. Thereafter he exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions, in Britain and abroad, including the seminal *When Attitudes Become Form*, Bern, *Op Losse Schroeven*, Amsterdam both in 1969 and *Information New York* in 1970.

Flanagan is perhaps best known for his dynamic, often monumental, bronze hares, which spring into life and were first exhibited in the early eighties. Flanagan fuses the everyday, the imaginary and fantastical to mould clay into animal forms, hares, elephants, dogs and horses - the horse is an archetype of classical sculpture. When asked about the use of the hare motif, Barry would describe the magical experience of seeing a hare running on the Sussex Downs. This event prompted the first *Leaping Hare* sculpture which he conceived in 1979. For the Egyptians the hare represented life. In Chinese mythology the hare is the sole inhabitant of the moon and the symbol of immortality. This mercurial image of the hare has come to stand as surrogate for human existence and our relations to the animal world.

His return to bronze with the hare - he had previously cast work in the foundry at Central School of Art with Henry Abercrombie in 1969 - was part of his exploration into different media which focused on composition and challenged previous ideas of what sculpture might constitute. Many of his works have humorous titles for example *A Nose in Repose* 1977/78, which is in Tate Gallery's collection. He was involved in happenings and dematerialised practices and collaborated with Yoko Ono in 1966 and later in 1980 with the Marjorie Strider dance company. Like his contemporaries from St. Martin's School of Art, Richard Long, Gilbert & George and Bruce McLean, Flanagan experimented with film. He was included in Land Art, Gerry Schum's Video Gallery exhibition with the film, *A hole in the Sea* 1969.

The exhibition *The horses of San Marco* at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in 1979 made a deep impression on Flanagan. Henry Abercrombie described the exhibition's impact on Flanagan's thinking and approach to sculpture, where the sheer tactile physicality of the ancient modeled horses created an aura

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and majesty. It was the ancientness of the sculptures that demonstrated man's relation with the animal as much as the desire and means to represent it. The varied patinas and gilding also provided substantial material to investigate the properties of bronze and the catalogue included essays on ancient casting methods, gilding in the Greek and Roman eras and an investigation of the foundry techniques used to cast the horses of San Marco as well as analyses of the best ways to preserve the horses. The bronze sculptures of horses each have a distinctly different character for instance the beautiful majestic and powerful *Horse*, 1983 at Jesus College, Cambridge to the gentle diffidence of *Field Day*, 1986, also known as the *Korus Horse* in San Eulalia, Ibiza and the mysterious, mythological qualities of the *Unicorn and Oak Tree*, 1991.

Flanagan represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1982. A major retrospective of his work was held at the Fundacion 'La Caixa' Madrid in 1993, touring to the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes in 1994. Flanagan's bronze hares have also been exhibited in many outdoor spaces, most notably on Park Avenue in New York in 1995-6 and at Grant Park, Chicago in 1996. In 1999, he had a solo exhibition at Galerie Xavier Hufkens in Brussels followed by an exhibition at Tate, Liverpool (2000). In 2002, a major exhibition of his work was shown at the Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Germany, and toured to the Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice. In 2006, the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin held a major retrospective of his work, in association with Dublin City Art Gallery The Hugh Lane, which included ten large-scale bronzes installed along O'Connell Street and in Parnell Square. His work is held in public collections worldwide including MoMA New York, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris and Tate in London. In 2011 Tate presented Barry Flanagan Early Works 1965-1982.

Solo shows (selection)

2023

Barry Flanagan, Galerie Lelong & Co., Matignon, Paris, France

2022

In Contemplation, Gow Langsford Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

2021

Barry Flanagan, Von Bartha, Basel, Switzerland

2020

Barry Flanagan, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Barry Flanagan: Alchemy of the Theatre, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, United Kingdom

Barry Flanagan, Paul Kasmin, New York, United States

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2019

Solutions imaginaires, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2018

Barry Flanagan, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, Netherlands

The Hare is Metaphor, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York City, United States

2017

Petits bronzes, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2016

Animal, Vegetable, Mineral, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, United Kingdom

2013

Flying Nessies, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2012

Silâns, Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Dublin, Ireland

Beyond Limits, Chatsworth House, Chesterfield, United Kingdom

2011

Chevaux et compagnie, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Early Works 1965-1982, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

2010

Homage à Barry Flanagan, Centre d'art contemporain - Ateliers de l'imprimé, Chatèllerault, France

Oeuvres sur papier, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Works 1966 - 2008, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, United Kingdom

2009

Hare Coursed, New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Garden, Winterslow, United Kingdom

2008

Sculptures 2001-2008, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, United Kingdom

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2007

Barry Flanagan, Wetterling Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden

Sculpture, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York City, United States

2006

Sculpture 1965-2005, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland

2005

Barry Flanagan, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium

Barry Flanagan, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2004

Barry Flanagan, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Linear Sculptures in Bronze and Stone Carvings, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

Sculptures, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York City, United States

2003

Sculpture et dessin, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain Nice (MAMAC), Nice, France

2002

Sculpture and drawing, Kunstaussstellung der Ruhrfestspiele, Recklinghausen, Germany

2001

Seeing Round Corners, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

2000

Barry Flanagan, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

1998

Barry Flanagan: Sculptures and Ceramics, von Bartha Collection, Basel, Switzerland

Barry Flanagan, Waddington Custot, London, United Kingdom

1997

Barry Flanagan in two dimensions. Drawings and Etchings, Centre d'Art Tecla Sala, L'Hospitalet, Spain

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1996

Barry Flanagan: Estampes, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen, Caen, France

1995

Barry Flanagan, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland

Barry Flanagan, University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa, United States

1994

Barry Flanagan, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

1993

Works 1966 to 1992, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, Nantes, France

Barry Flanagan, CaixaForum, Madrid, Spain

1992

The Names of the Hare: Large bronzes by Barry Flanagan: 1983-1990, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield, United Kingdom

1991

Barry Flanagan, Fuji Television Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

1990

Barry Flanagan, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

1988

A Visual Invitation: Sculpture 1967-1987, Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb (MSU), Zagreb, Croatia

A Visual Invitation: Sculpture 1967-1987, Moderna galerija Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1987

A Visual Invitation: Sculpture 1967-1987, Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade (MoCAB), Belgrade, Serbia

1986

Barry Flanagan: prints 1970-1983, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

Galerie Lelong & Co.

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1985

Barry Flanagan, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

1983

Sculptures, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Barry Flanagan, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1982

Sculpture, Museen Haus Lange / Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany

Sixties and Seventies: Prints and Drawings, Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA), London, United Kingdom

1981

Barry Flanagan: Sculptures in bronze 1980-1981, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

Sixties and Seventies: Prints and Drawings by Barry Flanagan, Mostyn, Llandudno, United Kingdom

1980

Barry Flanagan, New 57 Gallery, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Sculptures in stone 1973-1979, Waddington Galleries, London, United Kingdom

1979

Curl Snoots, Art & Project, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1978

Sculpture 1965 - 1978, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1977

Sculpture 1966 - 1976, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands

1976

Drawings, Ceramics, Etchings and Linocuts from the Loch Ness Series, Hester van Royen Gallery, London, United Kingdom

1975

Coil, Pinch and Squeeze Pots, Art & Project, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1974

Drawing 1966 -1974, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Somethings Etruscan, Rowan Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Projects: Barry Flanagan, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

1970

Christo, Barry Flanagan, Centro de Arte y Comunicación, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1969

Object sculptures, Museen Haus Lange / Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany

New Work, Fischbach Gallery, New York, United States

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Group shows (selection)

2022

Open, Heidi Horten Collection, Vienna , Austria

Toucher terre, l'Art de la sculpture céramique, Fondation Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France

A Lasting Truth is Change – Viewing the collection differently, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands

Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, United Kingdom

The Printed Line, The Granary Gallery, Berwick-upon-Tweed, United Kingdom

2021

Estado bruto, Museu de Arte Moderna Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Bestia – The Würth Collection's Bestiary, Museum Würth, Erstein, France

Double I, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne (MAMC), Saint -Etienne, France

Minimo – Minimal and Monumental Art, Château Saint-Maur, France

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Presentation of the contemporary collection, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

By The Sea, Land Art, Performance, Minimal Art, Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Sport, Spiel, Spaß, Kunsthalle Würth, Schwäbisch Hall, Germany

Portable Sculpture, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, United Kingdom

Table Pieces, Waddington Custot, London, United Kingdom

Wild Traces: A Living Landscape, Austin/Desmond Fine Art, London, United Kingdom

2019

Bêtes de Scène, Fondation Villa Datris, L'isle sur la Sorgue, France

Negativer Raum, ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany

2018

The most real thing : contemporary textiles and sculpture, New Art Centre, Salisbury, United Kingdom

2016

Conceptual Art in Britain 1964–1979, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

2014

Flanagan Miró - Two Pataphysicians, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, United Kingdom

2013

When Attitudes Become Form: Bern 1969 / Venezia 2013, Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy

2009

Visages, Galerie de France, Paris, France

British Council Collection: The Third Dimension, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2006

BIG BANG, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2003

Sculpture, Carré d'art - Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2002

Almost Warm and Fuzzy: Childhood and Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art
Cleveland (MOCA), Cleveland, United States

1997

Surrealism and After: The Gabrielle Keiller Collection, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art,
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

1996

Féminin-masculin: Le sexe de l'art, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Op Losse Schroeven : Situaties en Cryptostructuren, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam,
Netherlands

1995

Fondation Cartier: a Collection, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

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

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

Standing Sculpture, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy

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

Scultura - Carving from Carrara, Massa and Pietrasanta, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield,
United Kingdom

A Century of Modern Sculpture: The Patsy and Raymond Nasher Collection, The National Gallery of
Art, Washington, United States

1987

British Art in the Twentieth Century: The Modern Movement, Royal Academy of Arts, London,
United Kingdom

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Vessel, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

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

1986

Entre el Objeto y la Imagen. Escultura Británica Contemporánea, Palacio de Velázquez, Madrid, Spain

1985

Dialog, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

Sculptural Alternatives: Aspects of Photography and Sculpture in Britain 1965 to 1982, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

The British Art Show: Old Allegiances and New Directions 1979-1984, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

1984

Creation - Modern Art And Nature, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

1983

L'Arte povera, l'art conceptuel et les mythologies individuelles en Europe, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

Zeitgeist, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany

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

New Art at the Tate Gallery, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

1982

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

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

1981

Sculpture for the Blind: An exhibition for the blind and partially sighted, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1980

Art in Europe after '68, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent, Belgium

1978

Made by Sculptors, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Critic's Choice, selected by John McEwen, Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA), London, United Kingdom

1974

Sculpture Now: Dissolution or Redefinition?, Royal College of Art Galleries, London, United Kingdom

1972

City Sculpture Project, Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA), London, United Kingdom

1970

British Sculpture Out of the Sixties, Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA), London, United Kingdom

1969

When Attitudes become Form, Museen Haus Lange / Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany

When Attitudes Become Form, Institute of Contemporary Arts London (ICA), London, United Kingdom

Biennials (selection)

1995

46th International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale / Biennale di Venezia, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

1982

documenta 7, Documenta, Kassel, Germany

Stone and Bronze Sculptures, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

1975

IX BIENNALE DE PARIS, Biennale de Paris, Paris, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

1972

documenta 5, Documenta, Kassel, Germany

1970

10th Tokyo Biennale - Between Man and Matter, Tokyo International Biennial, Tokyo, Japan

1886

Carnegie International, Carnegie International, Pittsburg, United States

Public collections (selection)

Essl Museum - Kunst der Gegenwart, Klosterneuburg, Austria

Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent, Belgium

Museu de Arte Moderna Rio de Janeiro (MAM), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

National Gallery of Canada - Musée des beaux-arts du Canada, Ottawa, Canada

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada

Carré d'art - Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France

FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

Institut d'art contemporain Villeurbanne/Rhône-Alpes (IAC), Villeurbanne, France

LaM, Villeneuve d'Ascq, France

Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain (MAMCS), Strasbourg, France

Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne (MAMC), Saint-Etienne, France

Musée départemental d'Art ancien et contemporain d'Epinal, Epinal, France

Kunsthalle Weishaupt, Ulm, Germany

Anglo Irish Bank Collection, Dublin, Ireland

Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Dublin, Ireland

Galerie Lelong & Co.

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Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, Ireland

Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy

Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan

Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

Koriyama City Museum of Art, Koriyama, Japan

Rijksmuseum Twenthe - Museum voor oude en moderne kunst, Enschede, Netherlands

Berardo Museum, Lisbon, Portugal

Centro de Arte Moderna - CAM - Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal

Arts Council of England, London, United Kingdom

John Creasey Museum, Salisbury, United Kingdom

Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, United Kingdom

National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom

Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, United Kingdom

Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Ulster Museum, Belfast, United Kingdom

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield, United Kingdom

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, United States

AXA Gallery (former Equitable Gallery), New York, United States

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, United States

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, United States

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, United States

Runnymede Sculpture Farm, Woodside, United States