

WADDINGTON CUSTOT

Press Release

David Annesley

Kurumidza

16 November 2017–6 January 2018

Private View: Wednesday 15 November, 6–8pm



Waddington Custot is delighted to present a solo exhibition by British sculptor David Annesley. The exhibition will feature a selection of Annesley's celebrated large-scale, geometric colour sculpture from the 1960s, shown alongside more recent table-top sculptures which return to the same ideas of colour, lightness and movement of his earlier work.

Annesley's 1960s welded steel and aluminium sculptures are imposing in presence but still retain a delicacy of structure. He used colour to suggest the idea of dynamism and weightlessness in his sculptures, believing that colour opened up 'a whole new way of articulating and realising feeling in sculpture'. This is evident in 'Untitled' (1968-1969), a circle contained within a triangular shape set in a larger circle, where Annesley's use of complementary light blue and green tones disguise the mass of the material and convey a sense of lightness. The artist Kenneth Noland, who was a close friend, saw Annesley's sculptures as the extension of colour field painting: as painting got flatter, Annesley saw the potential of sculpture to take colour to another dimension.

The work from the sixties explores the relation of the body to the sculpture, examining the ratio of the parts to the whole. Many of the sculptures work in series, featuring the same motif, repeated or reduced in size. Two sculptures, 'Loquat' (1965–2017) and 'Godroon' (1966–2017) relate to each other in this way. Both use wave-like shapes, built up in varying sizes, forms and colour. The lack of a straight edge on which the sculpture should sit gives the illusion of instability and movement.

These two sculptures, as well as 'Untitled' (1969-2017), have been remade this year under the supervision of the artist. All three sculptures were destroyed in the Momart fire of 2004, but following a lengthy process and using the original specifications, the sculptures have been reconstructed on the occasion of this

exhibition as a chance to revisit the ideas that persistently arise in Annesley's work.

Annesley's first-ever solo exhibition was at Waddington Galleries in 1966. This 2017 exhibition, looking back to Annesley's works from the 1960s, brings these seminal sculptures to the fore and reassesses them from a contemporary viewpoint.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue featuring two newly commissioned essays by the artist Richard Wentworth and Jon Wood, Head of Research at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds.

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NOTES TO THE EDITORS

David Annesley (b. 1936, London) was educated in England, Australia and Zimbabwe. Following 2 years of National Service as an RAF pilot, he studied sculpture at St Martin's School of Art under Anthony Caro. Annesley is a key member of the 'New Generation' sculptors that emerged in Britain in the mid-1960s. Taught by Caro, the group were inspired to approach sculpture without limitations or preconceptions, and to experiment with materials, colour, and volume. Departing from traditional figurative or plinth-based sculpture, works were bold, abstract compositions that encouraged direct engagement with the viewer.

After graduating in 1962 Annesley went on to teach sculpture at Croydon School of Art and the Central School of Art, before moving to teach at Central School of Art and St Martin's.

Annesley gained early recognition while studying, when his work was selected for the Young Contemporaries exhibitions in 1961 and 1962. His first solo exhibition was at Waddington Galleries in 1966, and his work has since been shown in locations including the UK, Australia, Holland, Germany, and the United States.

Annesley's sculpture is held in public collections including the Arts Council Collection; British Council; Gallery of New South Wales, Australia; the Nagoya Gallery, Japan; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Tate, London. In 1995, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors.

Title: David Annesley: *Kurumidza*
Private View: 15 November 2017, 6-8pm
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm,
Saturday: 10am to 4pm

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IMAGE 1
David Annesley
Untitled
1969
from an edition of 3
painted aluminium and steel
88 x 82 3/4 x 24 in / 223.5 x 210.2 x 61 cm