

Press release – June 2007

Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation present large-scale sculptures by Alison Wilding to UK museum collections.

The Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation are pleased to announce that eight sculptures by British sculptor Alison Wilding have been presented, through the generosity of an anonymous private donor, to UK public collections including The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester; Arts Council Collection; Tate; Manchester Art Gallery and Leeds City Art Gallery.

In 1998 the donor commissioned Alison Wilding to produce a body of sculpture on a 'grand scale' that explored the events of the Passion of Christ, once the most familiar story in the Western world. The challenge described by Wilding was to make sixteen sculptures that represented each event 'on at least a human scale' and which embodied the emotive nature of the narrative. Exhibited in 2000 at The Henry Moore Foundation Studio, Dean Clough, Halifax under the title 'Contract', the first series of eight ambitious sculptures resolved the problem of reflecting the double imperatives of story-telling and sculpture-making.

It was always the intention of the anonymous patron that these works should enter public collections in the UK. The Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation are delighted that they have all now found a home.

Since her debut in the 1980s Wilding has consistently produced ambitious and innovative sculptures, working on a variety of scales, and with a wide range of modern and traditional materials. This commission provided her with unusual freedom to essay new combinations of forms in the search to find abstract equivalents for a deeply human story.

The works by Alison Wilding have been presented to the following public collections:

Deep Water, 1989

Leaded steel, copper, brass, linen

310 x 165 x 458 cm

Presented to The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Seal*, 1990**

Sandstone, polypropylene

183 x 211 x 150 cm

Presented to Arts Council Collection by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Assembly*, 1991**

Powder-coated steel, PVC

123 x 174 x 547 cm

Presented to Tate by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Red Skies*, 1992**

Acrylic, brass, patinated steel

217 x 99 x 86 cm

Presented to Manchester Art Gallery, by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Harbour*, 1994-96**

Alabaster, cast silicone rubber

130.5 x 152 x 158 cm

Presented to Tate by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Cold Face*, 1997**

Stainless steel, cast silicone rubber, wood

14 x 352.5 x 127 cm

Presented to Leeds City Art Gallery by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Disposition*, 1999**

Cast concrete, cast silicone rubber

182 x 288 x 252 cm (variable)

Presented to Arts Council Collection by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

***Inversion*, 2000**

Native oak, patinated copper

155 x 490 x 60 cm

Presented to Arts Council Collection by the Contemporary Art Society and The Henry Moore Foundation, courtesy of an anonymous donor.

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For further information and images, please contact: Sarah Cockburn, Henry Moore Institute,
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Notes for editors:

The Contemporary Art Society is an independent charity that works to ensure that the best art being made today enters public, private and corporate collections.

Public Collections: For almost 100 years, the Contemporary Art Society has been presenting significant works of art, made by living artists, often early in their careers, to museums. In the last ten years, the Contemporary Art Society has bought and commissioned more than 1000 works of art for museum collections throughout the UK. The Contemporary Art Society is also pleased to receive gifts of art works for presentation to museums.

Corporate Collections: The Contemporary Art Society provides an art consultancy service for companies. Drawing on its experience of building museum collections, the Contemporary Art Society advises clients on purchasing and commissioning work. Current clients include BAA Heathrow Terminal 5, The Economist, Dresdner Kleinwort Investment Bank and London School of Economics. This service is also available to private clients.

Private Collections: Private Collectors have always played an essential role in the art world. The Contemporary Art Society offers three membership schemes specially tailored for individuals at varying stages of their collecting careers. Blood is for new collectors, Contemporary Collectors is for established collectors and Contemporary Patrons is for those who are interested in working with the Contemporary Art Society on their museums programme.

The Contemporary Art Society is supported by its members, and by grants from Arts Council England, The Henry Moore Foundation, Arts Council England Lottery Fund, Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Arts Council Lottery Fund, The Esme Fairbairn Foundation and The Fine Family Foundation.

The Henry Moore Foundation: The Henry Moore Foundation is a registered charity, set-up and generously endowed by Mr Moore in 1977 'to advance the education of the public by the promotion of their appreciation of the fine arts and in particular the works of Henry Moore.' It operates from Perry Green, Hertfordshire and at the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds, both of which have a thriving programme of exhibitions. The curatorial team at Perry Green maintains the artist's home, studios and grounds in Hertfordshire, as well as the world's largest collection of Moore's sculpture, drawings, graphics, textiles and tapestries, while the Henry Moore Institute is a centre for the study of sculpture with an active research programme and collections including sculpture, archive and library. The Foundation also supports a wide range of projects and activities in the visual arts through its grants programme. Among areas covered are student bursaries, fellowships for artists and grants to art institutions, galleries and museums.