

## Conrad Shawcross: Hong Kong, March 2018



**Conrad Shawcross** Installation view, *The Dappled Light of the Sun*, The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London, 2015  
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Courtesy the artist, The Royal Academy of Arts, London and Victoria Miro, London / Venice (photography © Marc Wilmot)

**Participating artist in Hong Kong's first international sculpture park on the city's iconic Harbourfront, 22 February – 11 April.**

**Panellist with John Kampfner, CEO, Creative Industries Federation, Duncan Pescod, Director, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority and Tristram Hunt Director, V&A at *The GREAT Festival of Innovation*, Asia Society Hong Kong, 21 – 24 March.**

**Guest speaker with Suhanya Raffel, M+ Museum, Philip Tinari, UCCA Beijing and Ole Scheeren, OMA Architects. Swire Properties VIP Lounge & Dialogue Series at Art Basel in Hong Kong, Thursday 29 March, 4-5pm.**

**Presenting new sculptures at Art Basel Hong Kong at Victoria Miro (Booth 1C25), 29 – 31 March.**

Curated by **Tim Marlow**, Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Arts, and **Fumio Nanjo**, Director of Mori Art Museum and Director of International Programmes at Hong Kong Art School, **Harbour Arts Sculpture Park** brings together sculptures by renowned international and local contemporary artists to create Hong Kong's largest open-air gallery of monumental public art from 22 February to 11 April 2018. Conrad Shawcross will present two large-scale sculptures: *The Dappled Light of the Sun I*, 2015, and *Paradigm (solid)*, 2014. Both works use as their building block the tetrahedron, which behaves as an irrational number, creating sequences that, in theory, extend into infinity without repeating.

***The Dappled Light of the Sun I*, 2015**, is an immersive work consisting of a cloud-like form made from thousands of tetrahedrons of various sizes held aloft by three sets of steel tripods. Constructed from weathering steel, *The Dappled Light of the Sun I* stands at over six metres high and weighs five tonnes. The work is permeable by sunlight and viewers are encouraged to pass underneath it, where the interplay between light and shadow on both the ground and surrounding architecture adds to the sense of movement contained within the welded forms. The work was first displayed during the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2015, when five *Dappled Light* sculptures were installed in the Academy's Annenberg Courtyard. *The Dappled Light of the Sun* has subsequently been displayed at venues including Chatsworth House, Derbyshire (2015), and Frieze Sculpture Park, London (2015).

**Paradigm (solid), 2014**, is from Shawcross' *Paradigm* series – an ongoing exploration of the four-sided tetrahedron as a tessellating form. The tower-like *Paradigm* works are characterised by segments that become progressively larger as they ascend and make reference to the notion of the paradigm shift – a leap of imagination that jolts scientific enquiry forwards. Speaking about the work, Shawcross has said: '*Paradigm* is a beacon for progress and endeavour but contains fallibility and should serve as a constant reminder of the precariousness of knowledge. The writing of the scientific philosopher Thomas Kuhn inspired the title of the work as he described in his book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, that in order for ideas to progress old paradigms need to be toppled by new ones.' Standing at 14 metres high, the largest *Paradigm* work to date is installed at The Francis Crick Institute in King's Cross, London. Commissioned to mark the inauguration in 2016 of the biomedical discovery institute's new building, the sculpture is one of the tallest public sculptures in central London.

**Harbour Arts Sculpture Park** is presented by Hong Kong Arts Centre with support from lead partner H Queen's by Henderson Development Limited and supported by Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

**The artist will be in Hong Kong to participate in *The GREAT Festival of Innovation*, Asia Society Hong Kong, 21 – 24 March 2018 and will attend Art Basel Hong Kong.**

Organised by the UK Government Department for International Trade (DIT), *The GREAT Festival of Innovation* will offer a series of keynotes, masterclasses, showcases, installations and performances involving industry leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, educationalists and futurologists to an audience from the UK, Hong Kong, China, Japan, South Korea and wider region.

**New sculptures by Conrad Shawcross will be on display at Victoria Miro (Booth 1C25), Art Basel Hong Kong, 29 – 31 March 2018**

Works on display include *Paradigm Optic (Stainless)*, 2017, *Paradigm-B*, 2018, and *The Dappled Light of The Sun (Study II)*, 2016. The presentation also features a new triptych, *Catastrophe Sequence*, 2017.

**Shawcross will participate in the Art Basel Hong Kong's *Conversation* programme of talks and discussions, Swire Properties VIP Lounge & Dialogue Series at Art Basel in Hong Kong, Thursday 29 March, 4-5pm.**

Titled *Placemaking Artwork*, the conversation features Shawcross in discussion with Suhanya Raffel, Executive Director, M+ Museum, Philip Tinari, UCCA Beijing and Ole Scheeren, OMA Architects.

### **About the artist**

Conrad Shawcross was born in 1977 in London, where he currently lives and works. He is the youngest living artist to be elected to the Royal Academy of Arts. The artist has undertaken numerous prestigious commissions. In June 2017, the Royal Academy of Arts and St Pancras International unveiled the major site-specific installation, *The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, as part of the *Terrace Wires* series. The work was on view until December 2017. Unveiled in autumn 2016, *The Optic Cloak* is a major architectural intervention for the Greenwich Peninsula low carbon Energy Centre. *Three Perpetual Chords*, 2015, is a series of permanent sculptures commissioned for Dulwich. *The Dappled Light of the Sun*, 2015, first installed in the Annenberg Courtyard of the Royal Academy of Arts, London as part of the *Summer Exhibition 2015*, is an immersive work comprising branching cloud-like forms made of thousands of tetrahedrons. *Paradigm*, 2016, a permanent installation which marked the inauguration of The Francis Crick Institute in King's Cross, is currently one of the tallest public sculptures in central London.

Earlier commissions and artist projects include *The Ada Project*, an ongoing series of musical commissions between Shawcross and leading contemporary composers, which was conceived for the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013) and subsequently travelled to venues in Tasmania, London, Hong Kong and Denmark. Shawcross was one of three contemporary artists invited to create works inspired by Titian's masterpieces for the project *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012*, an ambitious collaboration with the National Gallery and Royal Ballet. He was Artist in Residence at the Science Museum, London, from 2009 – 2011, and his first public realm commission *Space Trumpet*, installed in the atrium of the refurbished Unilever Building in London in 2007, won the Art & Work 2008 Award for a Work of Art Commissioned for a Specific Site in a Working Environment. In 2009 Shawcross was awarded the Illy prize for best solo presentation at Art Brussels.

Solo exhibitions have been held at institutions including the New Art Centre, Roche Court (2015); ARTMIA Foundation, Beijing (2014); MUDAM, Luxembourg (2012); Science Museum, London (2011 - 2012); Turner Contemporary, Margate (2011); and Oxford Science Park (2010). His work has recently been exhibited nationally and internationally as part of the *Summer Exhibition 2017*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2017); *Socle du Monde Biennale 2017*, HEART Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark (2017); *Into the Unknown: A Journey Through Science Fiction*, Barbican, London (2017); *The Universe and Art*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2016 - 2017), travelling to ArtScience Museum, Singapore (2017); *GLOBALE: Exo-Evolution*, ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe (2015 - 2016); *Art Out Loud*, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire (2015); *Proportio*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (2015); *Summer Exhibition 2014*, Royal Academy, London (2014); *Light Show*, Hayward Gallery, London (2013), travelling to Auckland Art Gallery (2014 - 2015), MCA Sydney (2015), Sharjah Art Foundation (2015) and Benaki Museum, Athens (2016); the 55th Venice Biennale (2013); *Journeys: Conrad Shawcross and Tavares Strachan*, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design (2011); and LUSTWARANDE '11 - RAW, Park De Oude Warande, Tilburg (2011).

**For further press information please contact:**

**Victoria Miro** Kathy Stephenson | Director of Communications | [kathy@victoria-miro.com](mailto:kathy@victoria-miro.com) | +44 (0) 20 7549 0422

**Rees & Company** Alice Evans | [alice@reesandco.com](mailto:alice@reesandco.com) | + 44 (0) 75 1547 5411 | +44 (0) 20 3137 8776