

Richard Long *Stones*

23 July –
24 September, 2022

Richard Long (*1945 in Bristol) uses natural materials and his own physical presence to create his sometimes ephemeral works. He visually documents the tangible yet temporary traces that he purposefully leaves behind on his walks in a landscape, before leaving them to nature. These include markings that make human intervention in nature visible, either as a subtle gesture such as path left by feet in the grass or as a striking object made of organic materials. His artistic work is based on nomadic principles, with which Long illuminates the interactions between bodies, time and nature; he thus engages with the seeming contradiction between nature and order. While his sculptures align with strict geometric configurations such as circles, straight lines, crosses and spirals, their material surface remains unprocessed. And the minimalist impression of these works of formal reduction is only reinforced by the one-sided use of materials.

With his permanent works, Long brings the landscape into institutional, human-made space. The relationship to the outside is preserved due to the artist's personal relationship to the origin of the chosen material. For his large-scale stone pieces, Long often chooses material that is available at a quarry near the exhibition location. For his large-scale murals and 'mud drawings' he frequently uses mud from the river Avon, which flows through his home town of Bristol. Besides this clear local connection of the components used, the organic elements also gain meaning through their respective geology. In several respects, time is a core element of his conceptual work, through which he has been expanding the definition of sculpture since the late 1960s.

Sir Richard Long studied at the West of England College of Art in Bristol from 1962 to 1965 and at St. Martin's School of Art in London from 1966 to 1968. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1989. His work, spanning more than sixty years, has been the subject of countless group and solo exhibitions worldwide, including at MoMa in New York, Tate Britain in London and Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin. Richard Long was part of documenta 5, 1972 as well as documenta 7, 1982 and represented Great Britain at the Biennale di Venezia in 1976. He has participated in no less than 15 biennials. His work is represented in many major collections, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Britain in London, the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and the Kunsthaus Zürich. In 2018, the British Queen Elizabeth II ennobled the internationally awarded artist for his services to art.