

H A U S A M W A L D S E E

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition

Tony Cragg Drawing as Continuum

Haus am Waldsee
International Art in Berlin

17 September 2021 to 9 January 2022

Press conference: Thursday, 16 September, 11 a.m. The artist is present.

As an exhibition venue for international art, Haus am Waldsee cultivates a special relationship with sculpture since it started exhibiting in 1946. We have been fortunate to present a large outdoor sculpture “Versus” (2011/19) by the British sculptor Tony Cragg (*1949) since the general renovation of the building in 2017/18. In autumn 2021, we will now dedicate a large exhibition to the drawings of the internationally active and multi-award-winning sculptor, which will be complemented by individual sculptures in the interior.

The show focuses on works from the 1980s to the present day. Hand drawings, watercolours, lithographs and etchings are on display, allowing a deep insight into Tony Cragg’s artistic and scientific thinking.

The shift towards drawing on paper took place in the 1990s. Cragg now uses the pencil both for technical communication as a sketch and as a way of contemplating the form and content of complex questions in the realm of the invisible or digital space.

In his drawings, too, Cragg delves deeply into the fields that emerge from his engagement with material and form, micro- and macro-structures and their energy fields. He often playfully works through themes in series on paper, as if they were a series of experiments. In the 1990s, for example, he intensively investigates sequences of shapes of vessels that nest, move freely and finally transform as if in a cultural time-lapse. Cragg continues to find new challenges and approaches for his artistic work in current technical and scientific research. In various ways, he visualises the curiosity about the smallest and largest bioenergetic movements that make up the cosmos and surround our planet or lie hidden on microscopic scales.

Laws of the digital world can be just as much the subject of his search movements as fossil finds from ancient times. Cragg always ties the idea of time and space to an anthropomorphic repertoire of forms. He creates line-dense drawings of heads and faces that flow into each other in multiplied form. Here, ideas of mobility, automation, mirroring and liquefaction become visible, which seem bound to the human and yet could also be AI-controlled humanoids.



Among the series on paper are individual sheets that depict insects, tools or even loaves of bread with the precision of Old Masters. The primarily abstract sheets that often reproduce spatial, formal and energy processes seem not only to be used by Cragg to reassure himself of his own capacity for realistic study but also to refer to ancient cultural and natural everyday realm in a humorous manner.

As a sculptor, Cragg's artistic thinking is bound to material structures and spaces of the natural sciences. Through these drawings, his sources can be rediscovered.

According to the artist, his rarely exhibited works on paper are created only for him and as an attunement. They reflect Cragg's insatiable spirit of discovery, which has brought him great international attention for four decades.

Curated by: Katja Blomberg and Tony Cragg

Catalogue: A catalogue will be published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König alongside the exhibition in autumn 2021. Issued and introduced by Katja Blomberg with an interview by Jon Wood with Tony Cragg. 76 pages, German/English, 28 Euro.

High-res images are available in the press section on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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The exhibition is rendered possible through:

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FREUNDE UND FÖRDERER

Haus am Waldsee is supported by the Bezirksamt Steglitz-Zehlendorf – Amt für Weiterbildung und Kultur, Fachbereich Kultur and the Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa.