

## Richard Long

23 May – 12 July 2014  
52-54 Bell Street, London

For his first solo exhibition with Lisson Gallery in over three decades, Richard Long presents a new work made directly in the gallery, as well as other pieces made on walks in England, Switzerland and Antarctica. Having begun his career with the gallery in the 1970s, Long comes full circle while continuing to investigate many of the themes that concerned him then – from the real and conceptual routes he traverses, to the existential notion of the solitary exploration of nature. An image of Long's red tent, perched on the expanse of the Driscoll Glacier in 2012, depicts his continuing commitment to making art in the most remote and uninhabited corners of the world and represents his first trip to Antarctica. A sculpture of standing stones of Delabole slate from Cornwall will be accompanied by a new series of large, gestural mud works using white Cornish clay and tidal river mud gathered from the banks of the Avon in Bristol. These works are formed as much by natural forces – including gravity and the fluidity of the watery material – as they are by the human energy of Long's body and hand.

In addition to bringing raw matter from outside into the galleries – asserting an alternately ancient and contemporary relationship to the land, redolent of prehistoric monuments and current environmental concerns alike – Long also brings the experience of his walks into the public domain through text and photography. The text work documenting his 240-mile, eight-day walk from Cornwall to Oxfordshire – taking in Dartmoor, the Dawlish cliffs and Cheddar Gorge – describes a walk in terms of geology, namely the five materials encountered along the way: SLATE GRANITE SANDSTONE LIMESTONE CHALK. One photo-work, entitled *Romansch Stones* (2013), provides the only remaining evidence of a stone circle made along a 16-day walk through the Engadine region of the Swiss Alps. Ultimately, Long seeks "A balance between the patterns of nature and the formalism of human, abstract ideas like lines and circles. It is where my human characteristics meet the natural forces and patterns of the world – that is sort of the subject of my work." (1991)

Long is the subject of a touring show: 'Richard Long: Prints 1970-2013' at New Art Gallery, Walsall (16 April–22 June) and ARTIST ROOMS at Burton Art Gallery (4 Oct–10 Jan 2015). He is also in 'Body & Void: Echoes of Moore in Contemporary Art' at the Henry Moore Foundation (1 May–26 Oct) and 'Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-1979' at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (until 15 June).

### About the artist

Richard Long has been in the vanguard of conceptual art in Britain since he created *A Line Made by Walking* in 1967, while still a student. This photograph of the path left by his feet in the grass, a fixed line of movement, established a precedent that art could be a journey. Through this medium of walking, time, space and distance became new subjects for his art. From that time he expanded his walks to wilderness regions all over the world. He mediates his experience of these places, from mountains through to deserts, shorelines, grasslands, rivers and snowscapes, according to archetypal geometric marks and shapes, made by his footsteps alone or gathered from the materials of the place. These walks and temporary works of passage are recorded with photographs, maps and text works, where measurements of time and distance, place names and phenomena are vocabulary for both original ideas and powerful, condensed narratives.

52–54 Bell Street  
London NW1 5DA  
T +44 (0)20 7724 2739

Via Zenale, 3  
20123 Milan  
Italy

241 Eldridge Street  
10002 New York  
USA

[lissongallery.com](http://lissongallery.com)

# LISSON GALLERY

Richard Long was born in Bristol, UK in 1945, where he continues to live and work. He studied at West of England College of Art, Bristol (1962–65), then St Martin's School of Art, London (1966–68). In 1969, Long was included in a seminal exhibition of Minimalist and Conceptual works entitled *When Attitude Becomes Form* at the Kunsthalle Bern for which he made a walk in the Alps that was documented by his first text work. After 1969, Long began making journeys and sculptures in wilderness places all around the world, documenting his walks with photographs, maps, and text works. In the 1980s, Long began making new types of mud works using handprints applied directly to the wall. He also continued to make large sculptures of lines and circles from slate, driftwood, footprints or stone, often sourced from quarries near the exhibition sites.

Major solo exhibitions include Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2010), Tate Britain, London (2009), Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2007), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2006), National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (1996), Philadelphia Museum of Art (1994) and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1986). He represented Britain at the 37th Venice Biennale (1976) and won the Turner Prize in 1989 after being shortlisted four times. He received the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture (1990), has been elected to the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2001), was awarded Japan's Praemium Imperiale in the field of sculpture (2009) and was made a CBE in 2013.

## About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Since being founded in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, it has championed the careers of artists who have transformed the way art was made and presented. It continues to support the future of its artists, the legacy of historical figures, the evolving practice of established artists and the wide-ranging potential of emerging and new talents. As well as showing and supporting an important array of international artists, such as Marina Abramović, Gerard Byrne, Liu Xiaodong, Tatsuo Miyajima and Santiago Sierra, Lisson Gallery also represents many younger artists of this stature, including Allora & Calzadilla, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander and Haroon Mirza.

## Exhibition Facts

**Opening Hours** Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

**Location** 27 Bell Street, London, NW1 5BY

**Contact** + 44(0)20 7724 2739, [contact@lissongallery.com](mailto:contact@lissongallery.com)

**Website** [www.lissongallery.com](http://www.lissongallery.com)

## For press information and images

Gair Burton at Rhiannon Pickles PR

**Contact** +44 (0)7402 784 470, [gair@picklespr.com](mailto:gair@picklespr.com)

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