

D A N E S E
C O R E Y

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

William Tucker

Sculpture and Drawings

September 8 – October 14, 2017

Reception: Thursday, September 7, 6-8 p.m.

Danese/Corey is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition of sculpture and drawings by William Tucker. Focusing on three series *Horses*, *Imaginary Portraits*, and *Oedipus*, the works span Tucker's career from 1986 to 2017.

Tucker's sculptures exude a primal identity. Their richly and extensively modeled forms give the impression of having been dug from the earth, but on closer inspection they gradually transform into recognizable shapes – a voluptuous torso, a craggy visage, a horse's head or the foot of a god. The spirited, highly expressive surfaces and dramatically variegated patinas augment the sense of ancient, even prehistoric character.

*Tucker's figurative sculptures, are both universal and archaic, but also decidedly contemporary, reflecting the tensions and energies of sculpture-making in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Comparisons to Rodin, Giacometti and de Kooning are inescapable. The references are not always what they seem in Tucker's work, however. His reality is much more ambiguous and complex. If we think we know what Tucker's sculptures are about, they continue to be elusive presences, deliberately challenging our preconceptions about their making and meaning and our notions of what sculpture can and should be*¹

Accompanying his sculptures are Tucker's equally vigorous and expressive large charcoal drawings. Emerging from dense, velvety shades of grey and black are the faces of soldiers, musicians, and warriors.

William Tucker grew up in England and studied at Oxford and at St. Martin's College of Art and Design. He began exhibiting his work in the 1960s and has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in London, the United States, and internationally. In 1978 he moved to the United States and taught at Columbia University and the New York Studio School, becoming an American citizen in 1985.

He has received numerous awards and commissions over the years, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1981; a National Endowment for the Arts Award in 1986; a Sculpture Center Award for Distinction in Sculpture in 1991; a commission for a large-scale sculpture for Bilbao, Spain, in 1996; and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the International Sculpture Center in 2010. Tucker's work is in many public collections, including the Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC; Storm King Art Center in Mountainville, NY; The British Museum and the Tate in London, and the Louisiana Museum in Humlebaek, Denmark.

A fully illustrated catalogue is available. For further information please contact the gallery at 212-223-2227 or contact@danese.com. @DaneseCorey

¹ Kelly, Julia. *William Tucker: Unearthing the Figure*. London: Pangolin, 2014.