

Karla Black: Concentrations 55

The First U.S. Museum Solo Project of Scottish Artist Karla Black

Scottish artist Karla Black created two sculptures specifically for the Dallas Museum of Art to exhibit in her first solo project at a U.S. museum. *Karla Black: Concentrations 55*, on view from October 19, 2012, through March 17, 2013, is part of the *Concentrations* series of project-based solo exhibitions by international emerging artists. The series began in 1981 as part of the DMA's commitment to the work of living artists, with the goal of making the work of contemporary artists accessible to DMA audiences while preserving the excitement of the work.

"We are pleased to have Karla Black participate in our long-standing *Concentrations* series and to serve as the first U.S. museum to present a solo project by the Scottish artist," said Maxwell L. Anderson, The Eugene McDermott Director of the DMA.

The two large works are on view in the Museum's Hoffman Galleries and South Concourse. *Necessity* is a delicate, complex scrim that extends before the window wall facing the outdoor sculpture garden. *Exactly That*, which fills the entrance to the Hoffman Galleries, is an imposing assemblage of ephemeral materials that claims the architecture of the gallery as one of its elements. Both works embrace the expansive range of materials and complicated structural experiences that Black has engaged to structure her work since the mid- to late 2000s.

"Black's sculpture represents not only a formal engagement with the physical properties of material and the metaphysics of space but also a literal encounter between the artist and those materials," said Jeffrey Grove, The Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the DMA. "It is through her unique choice of materials, and utterly individualistic deployment of them, that Black has quickly distinguished herself as an original voice among the crowded field of contemporary sculptors."

Karla Black currently resides in Scotland, where she was born and later attended the Glasgow School of Art. In recent years, Black has riveted attention for her compelling work. In 2011 she was selected to represent Scotland at the Venice Biennale, an international exhibition of contemporary art held in Venice, Italy. Later that same year, Black was a finalist for Britain's Turner Prize, awarded annually to one British visual artist under the age of fifty. Black's decisive ability to invigorate and upend a rote language of sculpture is distinguished by her fearless challenge to the limitations of traditional form and her idiosyncratic capacity to exploit the physical properties of her chosen materials.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a full-color, illustrated brochure with an essay by exhibition curator Jeffrey Grove, The Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Dallas Museum of Art. Karla Black will discuss her work featured in *Concentrations 55: Karla Black* during an artist talk on October 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hoffman Galleries, part of the Museum's October Late Night.

Concentrations 55: Karla Black is organized by the Dallas Museum of Art. The presentation is made possible by TWO X TWO for AIDS and Art, an annual fundraising event that jointly benefits amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research and the Dallas Museum of Art. Additional support is provided by the Contemporary Art Initiative through

the gifts of an anonymous donor, Arlene and John Dayton, Jennifer and John Eagle, Amy and Vernon Faulconer, Kenny Goss, Tim Hanley, Marguerite Steed Hoffman, The Karpidas Foundation, Janelle and Alden Pinnell, Allen and Kelli Questrom, Cindy and Howard Rachofsky, Catherine and William Rose, Deedie and Rusty Rose, Gayle and Paul Stoffel, and Sharon and Michael Young. Air transportation is provided by American Airlines.

About the Dallas Museum of Art

Established in 1903, the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and groundbreaking educational programs. At the heart of the Museum and its programs is its global collection, which encompasses more than 24,000 works and spans 5,000 years of history, representing a full range of world cultures. Located in the vibrant Arts District of downtown Dallas, the Museum welcomes more than half a million visitors annually and acts as a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, literary events, and dramatic and dance presentations.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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