

# Duologue

24 September - 2 December 2018

“Duologue - a play or part of a play with speaking roles for only two actors.” (Oxford English Dictionary)



Two of the leading sculptors working in the UK today are coming together for a unique ‘live collaboration’ at the Royal Society of Sculptors, offering us a rare opportunity to glimpse into the artists’ studio and discover their working practices.

Past President of the Royal Academy, Phillip King CBE will join forces with Brazilian born London based Alexandre da Cunha, to spend a week of practical exchange and discussion in the studio space at Dora House (home of the Royal Society of Sculptors).

Both will bring materials and equipment to the space and between them explore the process of making. At the end of the week, the space will be left in exactly whatever state it is in, with whatever remains of the exchange on view.

The other room of the exhibition, the salon, will feature a large plinth where small scale sculptures by Phillip and Alexandre will be placed together, in conversation. Some works are independent sculptures, others are models for larger sculptures - so a dialogue between the two artists, as well as a dialogue between large and small, macro and micro, public and private, indoors and outdoors.

Not so much an orthodox exhibition, but more a rehearsal space that lays bare to us how sculptors work.

Phillip commented *“Duologue is a play with just two people in it – however this particular play has no script, which gives us maximum freedom for trying new ideas. In order to start I personally will bring a lot of the type of things and material I have in the studio and put it all in a corner ... and then we will see what happens next.”*



Alexandre added *“This project is a great opportunity for me to engage with Phillip King’s practice and open doors to a dialogue about our works. I hope this also opens doors to the public to see our practices through a different perspective; where the emphasis is on the use of materials rather than the formal aspect of finished sculptures.”*

Caroline Worthington, Director of the Royal Society of Sculptors says *“The society was established 100 years ago to advocate sculpture and the artists who create it, but also to play a leading role in the conversations about sculpture and to spark debate about it. Phillip and Alexandre have been friends for a while but have never worked together – so they were intrigued by the idea of coming together to explore what they do and*

how they do it, and then offering us an insight into that. I hope Duologue will be fascinating for them, and us, and the first of many such conversations we will host at the Royal Society of Sculptors.”

For more information follow @Royal\_Sculptors on Twitter and visit [www.sculptors.org.uk](http://www.sculptors.org.uk)

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Phillip King** CBE, PPRA (born 1934) is a British sculptor. He is one of Anthony Caro's best-known students, even though the two artists are near contemporaries. Their education followed similar trajectories and they both worked as assistants to Henry Moore. King played a vital role in changing the face of late 20th century British sculpture through his experimentation with abstraction, construction, material and colour. His use of innovative materials such as fibreglass allowed him to mould shapes and structures not feasible with plaster or other traditional materials. Influenced by Matisse, he was also a pioneer of colour - describing it as '*no longer subservient to the material but something on its own, to do with surface and skin*' and using it to bind the separate parts of a sculpture together. This rich combination of materials, techniques, forms and colour enabled King to create sculpture detached from conventional, figurative ideas. King also deferred from tradition by choosing to place his works on the floor, occupying a space alongside the viewer, rather than on plinths. His work can be found in collections and exhibitions worldwide. He was President of the Royal Academy, 1999-2004.

**Alexandre da Cunha** (born 1969), was raised in Brazil and lives and works in London. He explores his hybrid national identity through freestanding, wall-mounted, and architectural sculptures using transformed everyday or found objects, which remain identifiable within the abstract assemblages. His practice is influenced by both systems of mass production and artisanal craftsmanship, such that the final objects appear to be a mix between popular consumer object and archaeological relic. He once said "*By highlighting specific aspects of objects that surround us, I impose a possible entry for them in what is known as the art world.*"

**The Royal Society of Sculptors** was created over 100 years ago to advocate sculpture and the artists who create it. It welcomes visitors to its historic home in South Kensington to explore a diverse range of contemporary work through original exhibitions, artists' talks and creative workshops. The Royal Society of Sculptors is based at 108 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3RA. Nearest tube stations: South Kensington & Gloucester Road.

Its current exhibition (until 14 July) - *Faces of Sculpture: Portrait of a Profession, An Exhibition of Photographs by Anne Purkiss* – is a display of photographer Anne Purkiss' portraits of leading British sculptors in their studios taken over the past 30 years. The exhibition, which also forms part of RA250 celebrations, is open Monday to Friday 11.00am – 5.00pm & Saturdays 1.00 – 5.00pm. Entry free.

### **IMAGES – A SELECTION OF HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#)**

Alexandre da Cunha, *Morning XXIII*, 2018. Image courtesy the artist and Thomas Dane Gallery. Photo Luke A Walker  
Phillip King, *Download Stretch Float Maquette*, 2013. Image courtesy the artist and Thomas Dane Gallery. Photo Luke A Walker

### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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