

# Milton Keynes Gallery

## Press Release

**Andrew Lord**

**24 September – 28 November 2010**

Preview: Thursday 23 September, 6pm – 10pm

Admission free

Since his earliest exhibitions in the late 1970s, the British artist Andrew Lord has explored sculptural and pictorial concerns using clay, plaster, beeswax, bronze, drawing, printmaking and video. This exhibition provides the first overview of the artist's career, charting the development of his practice from the minute observation of nature and citation of modern art to casts from the body and use of memory as a sculptural tool.

After extensive travels in Mexico to study pre-Columbian art and in Europe, exploring Paris and modern art, looking at Meissen porcelain, Staffordshire ceramics and the Della Robbia studio in Florence, for example, Lord's early experiments frequently reworked the traditional forms of jugs, vases and cups. He produced numerous variations of groupings of ceramic forms (eg jug, vase and dish; vase, dish and cup; two vases; and coffee sets) capturing different qualities of light and shade which sometimes echoed the styles of Cezanne, Monet and Picasso. These works increasingly evoked the human figure, eventually culminating in a series of vases that fuse the continuous outline of a vessel with the facial profile of artists who had influenced him, including Marcel Duchamp, Jasper Johns and Paul Gauguin.

Lord moved to New York in the early 1980s where he explored different methods of producing work, increasingly using his own body as a sculptural tool, but maintaining the form of a vessel throughout. A series of work formed in clay, plaster and wax or cast in bronze was produced around the senses with the artist pressing his nose, tongue, eye sockets, ears and teeth into clay to emphasise basic bodily functions such as breathing, smelling, watching and swallowing.

In 2005, Lord moved away from the vessel in order to produce a broader variety of subjects directly related to poetry (particularly Walt Whitman and Frank O'Hara), architecture, folklore and landscape. In these works, the emphasis on physical application was increasingly balanced by personal and intuitive responses, often drawing on the artist's memories of his childhood in Whitworth, Lancashire. A series of recent works, for example, presents a sculptural mind map of the town and its surrounding environment, recalling details of buildings, landscapes and waterfalls.

This exhibition presents Lord's thirty year career as a constant process of experimentation and refinement that balances a conceptual approach with a sensual appearance. The work derives from a meditation on domestic, everyday instruments and activities as well as a sophisticated play between form and content in a layered practice that includes physical action, representation, translation and remembrance.

## **Notes for Editors**

### **Abridged Artist's Biography**

Andrew Lord was born in Rochdale, England in 1950 and studied at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London. In 1972, he worked in a ceramics factory in Delft, Holland, set up a studio in Rotterdam, then Amsterdam and travelled to Mexico on a British Council scholarship in 1974. He moved to New York in the early 1980s, where he still lives and works.

Key exhibitions include his first solo show (installed by Barry Flanagan) at Anthony Stokes Gallery in 1978 and shows in 1980 and 1985 at Art & Project, Amsterdam's leading contemporary art gallery and platform for international conceptual artists including Daniel Buren, Gilbert & George and Sol Lewitt. In 1987, Lord was included in an exhibition at Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld alongside a generation of sculptors such as Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Katarina Fritsch and Franz West. Lord exhibited in galleries in the US, Europe and South Korea throughout the 1990s and featured in the 1995 Whitney Biennial. More recently, Lord was included in Ugo Rondinone's 'The Third Mind' at the Palais de Tokyo in 2007.

His work is in numerous public and private collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Museum Boymans van Beuningen, Rotterdam and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

## Publication

Milton Keynes Gallery is collaborating with the Santa Monica Museum of Art (SMMoA) to produce the first major monograph on Andrew Lord's work. It features a text by art historian Dawn Ades, an interview between Lord and James Rondeau (Curator, Frances and Thomas Dittmer Chair of Contemporary Art, The Art Institute of Chicago) and an introduction by Elsa Longhauser, Director of SMMoA and Anthony Spira, Director of Milton Keynes Gallery.

The publication will combine the exhibition at Milton Keynes Gallery with a separate exhibition at SMMoA from 15 May to 21 August 2010 (Andrew Lord: *between my hands to water falling, selected works from 1990 to 2010*) to produce a comprehensive survey of Lord's work.

## Funding

The exhibition at Milton Keynes Gallery has been funded by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the Henry Moore Foundation, The Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation and Gladstone Gallery.

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Milton Keynes Gallery  
900 Midsummer Boulevard,  
Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA  
[www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org)

## Press Information

For further information and images, please contact Katharine Sorensen, Communications Director, on 01908 558 318 or email [k.sorensen@mk-g.org](mailto:k.sorensen@mk-g.org).

## Ends

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