

Anthony Caro

September 9th to October 14th, 2017

Opening September 8th, 2017

Sir Anthony Caro is often regarded as the greatest British sculptor of his generation. His entire career is characterized by his innovative use of materials employing stainless steel, perspex, wood and stoneware. The Gallery Hans Mayer presents twelve of Anthony Caro's sculptures including some pieces Caro worked on shortly before his death at the age of 89 in 2013.

Some of these works incorporate perspex, an innovative, glass-like material. Caro turned to this material as less fragile and easier to work with than glass. It also gave him the opportunity to experiment with color, as in *Highway 2013*, in which he combined steel with a tropical yellow perspex. Other works incorporated stoneware and steel, as *Engulfed 2013* or *Shunter's Book 2011/2013*. They belong to the series of *Book Sculptures*. He had largely avoided the use of this traditional sculptural medium throughout his career favouring metal in his search into abstraction from the early 1960's onward. In 1990, however, he was introduced the German ceramist Hans-Ulrich Spinner and started some stoneware book sculptures. In 2011 Caro rediscovered the material and began experimenting with different combinations of steel appendages, incorporating workshop tools or everyday objects in the folds and creases of clay.

Anthony Caro's concern was very much concentrated on the interaction of a sculpture with the human body, and hand-held everyday tools feature largely throughout his career as a means to highlight the interplay with the human body, be it bolts, handles or a door prop. In a BBC interview he stated: „I swore I would never make an abstract sculpture, but what I meant was that I didn't want to make an empty sculpture. It shouldn't be an exercise, it should be about life.“ The books were vehicles to continue a life-long exploration into sculptural form. The world, he once said, is full of objects that look like sculptures, but are not. Whereas objects in daily life are meant to be used, to him artworks are „feeling objects“.