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## *PRESS DOSSIER*

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### **DAVID NASH**

"NATURE TO NATURE"

**Exhibition from 26-05-18 to 30-09-18**

In collaboration with Gallery Lelong & Co., and Annely Juda Fine Art, London



*David Nash Descending Vessel, 1987, oak, 300 x 44 x 155 cm, © David Nash and Galerie Lelong & Co.*

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# THE EXHIBITION

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Born on 14 November, 1945 in Esher, England, David Nash is a British sculptor and drawer who lives since 1967 in the town of Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales. David Nash attended Kingston College of Art and then Chelsea School of Art where he primarily worked with wood while keeping a deep interest in the surrounding landscape and nature. His works are presented at the Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal, United Kingdom, at the Galery Lelong in Zürich, at the Sala de la Diputación in Spain, at the Annely Juda Fine Art Gallery in London and at Kew Gardens, in Kew near London. David Nash was elected a member of Royal Academy of Arts in 1999. His works are widely represented in major European, American, Australian and Japanese museums. One of his most famous works is *Ash Dome* (1977), a ring of ash trees he planted trained to form a domed shape. The dome is sited at a secret location in order to protect its fragile environment. For *Wooden Boulder* (1978) Nash placed a large wooden sphere on a Welsh mountainside to weather there and over the years, to be shifted by the forces of nature towards the Atlantic Ocean.

David Nash explores the interaction between humans and their natural environment. In his work he counts on natural forces like erosion, seasons and time that “an average human has not available”. He uses natural materials and living trees, his main tools are a chainsaw and a blowtorch to carve and char the wood into unexpected forms.

For Nash, it's the wood (trunk, branches, stump) that guides the artist. The innate character of the material is taken into account and affects the outcome of the sculpture by direct carving. “They look at me”, says the artist about the chosen materials and his works emerge from these interactions, confrontations and conversations. The drawing is secondary. Wood remains his preferred material from which he primarily creates. However, bronze, which is sculptured in connection with wood, allowed him to make use of the empty spaces in wood and grant resistant and monumental forces to his fragile works.

The displayed works recall forms from our environment, flat or in volume, just slightly modified, expanded, refined, diverted from their purpose and occupying space as an end in itself. Columns, peaks and mountains, torsos or trunks... simple without ornaments.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **2018**

David Nash, *First the tree, then the form*, Museum Lothar Fischer, Neumarkt, GERMANY *Nature to Nature*, Fondation Fernet-Branca, FRANCE

### **2017**

Krauthügel Art Project, Salzburg - AUSTRIA  
Plas Glyn-y-Weddw, Gwynedd, Wales - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2016**

Galerie Lelong, Paris - FRANCE  
Gallerja Roma - ITALY

### **2014**

Galerie Lelong, Paris - FRANCE

### **2013**

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire - FRANCE  
Royal Botanic Garden, Kew - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2012**

Galerie Lelong, Paris - FRANCE  
Galerie Lelong, Zurich - SWITZERLAND

### **2011**

Sculpture Park of Yorkshire, Wakefield - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2010**

Royal Academy, London - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2009**

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Cumbria - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2008**

ALTANA Kulturstiftung, Bad Homburg - GERMANY

### **2006**

Konstruktiv Tendens, Stockholm - SWEDEN

### **2005**

Musée d'Angers, Angers - FRANCE  
Kunsthalle Würth, Künzelsau - GERMANY

### **2004**

Royal Academy of Arts, London - UNITED KINGDOM  
Galerie Lelong Paris - FRANCE  
Tate St Ives, Cornwall - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2003**

Gerhard Marcks Haus, Bremen - GERMANY  
New Art Centre Sculpture Park, Roche Court - UNITED KINGDOM

### **2002**

Galerie Lelong, New-York - USA

### **2000**

Galerie Lelong Paris - FRANCE

### **1998**

Parc Régional Tournay-Solvay, Brussels - BELGIUM

### **1990**

Serpentine Gallery, London - UNITED KINGDOM

### **1985**

Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo - NETHERLANDS

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*VISUALS HD AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS*

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*David Nash, Descending Vessel, 1987, oak, 300 x 44 x 155 cm, ©David Nash and Galerie Lelong & Co.*



*David Nash, Cut Column, 1999, beech, 196 x 56 x 51cm, ©David Nash and Galerie Lelong & Co.*

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*Practical information*

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Vernissage: **Saturday 26 May 2018 at 5.00 p.m.**

Exhibition in partnership with Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris and Annely Juda Fine Art, London.

Exhibition from Sunday 27 May to Sunday 30 September 2018

*Opening hours:* from Wednesday to Sunday from 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**During Art Basel:** (from Monday 11 June to Sunday 17 June) – open from 9.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

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*History of Fondation Fernet Branca*

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FROM DISTILLERY TO CONTEMPORARY ART



The Italian company Fernet-Branca was created in 1845 by the brothers Branca. They produced a bitter herbal liqueur called Fernet-Branca. In 1909 a distillery was opened in Saint-Louis which was intended to provide Germany with alcohol. Over the decades, production and sales have declined in the Saint-Louis factory and the site was shut down on July 22, 2000.

The deputy mayor **Jean Ueberschlag** applied at the Regional Office of Cultural Affairs to have the building listed in the inventory of historic sites. On July 4th 1996, by the prefectural order nr. 95/155, the principal facade of the building including the eagle on top which is the company's brand symbol has been included in the register of historical buildings. That was the first step towards a new use of the site as a cultural venue.

In 2004 the town of Saint-Louis started leasing the building from its owner and took over the conversion of the site into a museum of modern art with the architect **Jean-Michel Wilmotte**.

1500m<sup>2</sup> of the 4000 m<sup>2</sup> of the building are used for various exhibitions of contemporary art.

The Espace d'Art Contemporain is administrated by Association pour le musée d'art contemporain Fernet-Branca, who sublets it and manages its cultural activities. It has in particular organized its launching in 2004. On June 15 of that same year, the Korean artist Lee Ufan inaugurated his exhibition, the first one organized by the Fondation Fernet-Branca.

By the prefectoral order of December 21, 2011 the Espace d'Art Contemporain acquired the status of foundation, named "Fondation Fernet-Branca" and was recognized as a public utility organization.

In 2014 the foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary and inaugurated its 30th exhibition on June 13, 2015 with the Irish artist Claire Morgan.

According to the status of the Fondation Fernet-Branca, the site "is aimed to use the exhibition area of contemporary art while ensuring a tri-national reach and developing a policy for a wide access to contemporary art". In order to achieve this, its principle means of action are: "*the organization and presentation of monographic, group or themed exhibitions*" as well as "*the development of an access policy to contemporary art for both young audience and large audience by offering introductory courses, workshops, conferences with an educational goal*".

The Fondation Fernet-Branca receives artists of all types and origins, local as well as international and it reaches out wider than just the region's borders as it no longer only attracts visitors from the nearby Alsace, Basel and Baden.

**Practical information:**

Fondation Fernet Branca  
1500m2 for contemporary art

2, rue du Ballon  
68 300 Saint-Louis - Alsace  
+33 3 89 69 10 77 [www.fondationfernet-branca.org](http://www.fondationfernet-branca.org)

*Opening hours:* from Wednesday to Sunday from 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

During Art Basel: from Monday 11 June to Sunday 17 June – open from 9.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**President:** Jean Ueberschlag

**Director:** Pierre-Jean Sugier

**Mediation young audience:** Coralie Oberlaender

**Project coordinator and public relations:** Anaïs Roesz

**Project assistant:** Claudia Caliendo

**Technicians:** Perrin Keller, Michele Morando, Aglaé Rochette, Manon Cézaro

**Press contact:**

Anaïs Roesz

**Project coordinator and public relations:**

[presse@fondationfernet-branca.org](mailto:presse@fondationfernet-branca.org)

**Our partners:**

Thanks to David Nash, la Galerie Lelong & Co., Annelly Juda Fine Art and Gesa Matthies, translator.

