

Serpentine Gallery

Teachers' Resources

Anish Kapoor Turning the World Upside Down in Kensington Gardens 28 September – 13 March 2010



Anish Kapoor
Sky Mirror, Red 2007
Installation view Kensington Gardens, London
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Exhibition organised by



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With kind assistance from



Introduction

These notes are designed to support your visit to the Serpentine Gallery, including planning prior to your visit and suggestions for discussion and activities back at school when you return. They are aimed at all key stages, enabling you to develop them to suit your needs and inspire discussion and practical work.

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Background information

The Royal Parks and the Serpentine Gallery are delighted to present *Anish Kapoor: Turning the World Upside Down in Kensington Gardens*, an outdoor exhibition of recent stainless steel sculptures by acclaimed London-based artist Anish Kapoor. This exhibition is realised in a groundbreaking partnership between The Royal Parks and the Serpentine Gallery, situating a selection of recent works by the artist in the stunning settings of Kensington Gardens; works that have never been shown in London before. This exhibition forms part of the 40th anniversary exhibition programme of the Serpentine Gallery and is the first major outdoor exhibition of Anish Kapoor's work in London.

Anish Kapoor

Anish Kapoor was born on 12 March 1954 in Bombay. He moved to London in the early 1970s where he has lived and worked ever since. He studied art at Hornsey College of Art (1973-1977) and at Chelsea School of Art (1977-1978). His first solo exhibition was held at Patrice Alexandre in Paris in 1980.

He won the Turner Prize in 1991 and he received the prestigious Unilever Commission for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in 2002, which he realised with the much-acclaimed work, *Marsyas*.

Among his major permanent commissions is *Cloud Gate* (2004) for the Millennium Park in Chicago, considered to be the most popular public artwork in the world. He was recently awarded the commission with Cecil Balmond for a permanent artwork for the London 2010 Olympic Park, the *ArcelorMittal Orbit*.

He is represented by the Lisson Gallery, London; Gladstone Gallery, New York; Kukje Gallery, Seoul, and Galleria Continua and Galleria Massimo Minini in Italy.

Location and Audience



Anish Kapoor
C-Curve 2007
Stainless steel
220 x 770 x 300 cm
Courtesy of the Artist and Lisson Gallery, London



Anish Kapoor
C-Curve 2007
Installation view Kensington Gardens, London
© 2010 Dave Morgan



Anish Kapoor
Sky Mirror 2006
Stainless steel
1066.8 x 1066.8 cm
© 2010 Anish Kapoor
Courtesy of the Artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York
and Brussels



Anish Kapoor
Sky Mirror 2006
Installation view Kensington Gardens, London
© 2010 Dave Morgan



Anish Kapoor
Non-Object (Spire), 2007
Stainless steel
302.3 x 300 x 300 cm
Photo: David Regen
Courtesy: the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Anish Kapoor
Non-Object (Spire) 2008
Stainless steel
302 x 300 x 300 cm
© 2010 Anish Kapoor
Courtesy of the Artist and Gladstone Gallery,
New York and Brussels

Keywords

Reflection- Angle- Location- Curve- Stretch- Surface- Scale- Flip- View- Dark- Light- Static- Motion- Emotive- Cold- Private- Public- Matt- Shiny- Void- Body- Bright- Dull- Infinite- Empty- Colour – Interaction - Depth

Discussions and activities

Sky Mirror, Red 2007

- *Sky Mirror, Red* 2007 has connotations of sunset. Think about the different properties that the work would have if it were blue, green or gold.

C-Curve 2007

- Look at your reflections in *C-Curve* and see if you can turn your world upside down.
- Look at how the reflections are different on the front and back of the sculpture.
- Bend mirrored card to create distorted reflections and draw or paint the images. Alternatively use computer graphics programmes to alter, twist, repeat and flip photographs.
- Create drawings by looking at the reflections in a mirror instead of your hand.

Sky Mirror 2006

- *Sky Mirror* was previously shown in New York. Compare the reflections in *Sky Mirror* to those in Kensington Gardens. How does the context of the work change it? What location would you choose to place the work in and why?
- Kapoor chose to install this sculpture in Kensington Gardens in the same location that a sculpture by Henry Moore had previously been shown. Why do you think this is such a good location?

Non-Object (Spire), 2007

- Compare *Non-Object (Spire)* in the Gallery and Park setting.
- What noises do you think they might make?

First word responses

- Ask your group to give you one-word responses to the work, this can be done quickly. Write the words down and then discuss them. As a group try to narrow them down to only 3 words.

Opposites

- Give out a pair of opposite words to your students and ask them to find either one or two artworks that relate to them. Discuss as a group whether one artwork can have both words in it? See if people can guess which artworks were chosen. Are there other artworks which also fit the words?

Dark/Light
Static/motion
Emotive/cold
Everyday/extraordinary
Public/Private
Outside/Inside

Matt/Shiny
Enormous/Microscopic
Bright/Dull
Science/Faith
Body/Void
Surface/ Reflection
Infinite/Empty

Cross-curricular links

Drama- Geography – Art and Design – Creative and Media Diploma – Design and Technology – Resistant materials – Political studies – Sociology – Photography- Architecture- Sociology- Mathematics- Science- Philosophy and Religion



Key to works

- A** *Sky Mirror* 2006
Stainless steel
10 m diameter
- B** *C-Curve* 2007
Stainless steel
220 × 770 × 300 cm
- C** *Sky Mirror* 2009
Stainless steel
270 cm diameter
- D** *Non Object (Spire)* 2008
Stainless steel
302 × 300 × 300 cm

Previous works



Anish Kapoor
Cloud Gate, 2004
Stainless steel
33 ft x 66 ft x 42 ft
Millennium Park, Chicago
Photo: Peter.J.Schluz / Walter Mitchell
Courtesy of the City of Chicago and Gladstone Gallery



Anish Kapoor
Installation: Royal Academy of Arts, 2009
Photo: Dave Morgan
Courtesy the artist and Royal Academy of Arts



Anish Kapoor
White Sand, Red Millet, Many Flowers, 1982
Mixed media and pigment
4 elements
101 x 241.5 x 217.4 cm
Arts Council Collection, London



Anish Kapoor
Marsyas, 2002
PVC and steel
Installation, Tate Modern, 2002-2003
Photo: John Riddy,
Courtesy: Tate

Future work



Anish Kapoor
ArcelorMittal Orbit, 2010
Anish Kapoor
In collaboration with Cecil Balmond, ARUP

Keywords

Reflection- Angle- Location- Curve- Stretch- Surface- Scale- Flip- View- Dark- Light- Static- Motion- Emotive- Cold- Private- Public- Matt- Shiny- Void- Body- Bright- Dull- Infinite- Empty- Colour- Interaction- Depth

Discussions and activities

Cloud Gate, 2004

- Make a model city and design public sculptures. Think about scale, materials and public engagement.
- Look at the relationship to other sculptures in Kensington Gardens, go and find them.

Installation: Royal Academy of Arts, 2009

- These mirrored works are shown in a gallery setting and have been grouped by the artist and curator.
- Curate an exhibition with works by Anish Kapoor, either build or draw your gallery space and place the artworks inside.
- Think about the relationships between the works. You could also include work by other artists.

White Sand, Red Millet, Many Flowers, 1982

- Create temporary sculptures using unusual materials and photograph them.
- Try placing them outside and see how people and the weather change them.

Marsyas, 2002

- What does this sculpture remind you of?
- Which Greek mythological story includes the character Marsyas?
- Play with scale, by placing model people next to existing objects.

ArcelorMittal Orbit, 2010

- What does this tower remind you of?
- Compare it to other towers.
- Design your own public towers, play with scale by enlarging microscopic things to an enormous scale.
- What is the purpose of public art?

Cross-curricular links

Drama- Geography – Art and Design – Creative and Media Diploma – Design and Technology – Resistant materials – Political studies – Sociology – Photography- Architecture- Sociology- Mathematics- Science- Philosophy and Religion

Further reading and related links

Other Artists to look at

Are there any similarities with the works of Anish Kapoor?

Jeff Koons- Serpentine Gallery Teachers' notes available

Barbara Hepworth

Richard Long

Anthony Gormley

Mark Wallinger

Fourth Plinth

The Fourth Plinth is the biggest contemporary art commission in central London.

Artists that has presented their work on the Forth Plinth include

Antony Gormley

Thomas Schütte

Marc Quinn

You can currently see Nelson's Ship in a Bottle by Yinka Shonibare, MBE on the plinth.

You can vote online for the new winner from the following shortlist of artists

Hew Locke

Jennifer Allora

Katharina Fritsch

Mariele Neudecker

Brian Griffiths

Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset

Online research

<http://www.royalparks.org.uk/>

<http://anishkapoor.com/>

<http://www.lissongallery.com/>

<http://www.gladstonegallery.com/>

<http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/>

<http://www.london.gov.uk/fourthplinth/>

Planning a Visit to the Serpentine Gallery

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Transport

The nearest tube stations are South Kensington (1.25 km walk), Knightsbridge (1.25 km walk) or Lancaster Gate (1 km walk)
Bus routes 9, 10, 52, 452, 94 and 148 stop near the Gallery

Group Visit Guidelines

To make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please read the following:

Before your Visit:

- Adult supervision of students under 16 is required at all times, including in the shop. An adult student ratio of 1:5 for under 5's, 1:10 for 5 - 11 year olds, 1:15 for 11 - 16 year olds and 1:20 for 16 - 18 year olds is required.
- We recommend a preliminary planning visit, as for some exhibitions there may be works that you consider unsuitable for your group.

During your Visit:

- Artworks are extremely fragile. Please take extra care to follow the Gallery Guidelines at all times:

No running
No touching
No leaning against walls
No shouting
No photography
No walking on the plinths

This exhibition is outdoor so we advise you wear warm clothes

- Teachers/group leaders and accompanying adults are responsible for their group's behaviour whilst in the Serpentine Gallery and Kensington Gardens.
- Many contemporary artworks are fragile and damage easily. Please make sure that your group understands that this is why they are not allowed to touch the art.
- Lecturing: If your group is larger than 20 please split them into smaller groups in the exhibition space and do not lecture in rooms where talks are already in progress.
- Drawing: If you would like to draw please check with the gallery what materials you will be able to use in the exhibition.

The *Anish Kapoor* Teachers' Notes are also available to download free at www.serpentinegallery.org along with Teachers' Notes for the previous exhibitions:

Klara Lidén 7 October – 7 November 2010
Jean Nouvel Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010 10 July – 17 October
Wolfgang Tillmans 26 June – 19 September
Nairy Baghramian and Phyllida Barlow 8 May- 13 June
Richard Hamilton: Modern Moral Matters 3 March 2010 – 25 April 2010
Design Real 26 November 2009 – 7 February 2010
Gustav Metzger: Decades 1959 – 2009, 29 September – 8 November 2009
Jeff Koons: Popeye Series, 2 July – 13 September 2009
Luke Fowler, 7 May – 14 June 2009
Rebecca Warren, 10 March – 19 April 2009
Indian Highway, 10 December 2008 – 22 February 2009
Gerhard Richter, 23 September – 23 November 2008
Richard Prince: Continuation, 26 June – 7 September 2008
Maria Lassnig, 25 April – 8 June 2008
Derek Jarman: Brutal Beauty, 23 February – 13 April 2008
Anthony McCall, 30 November 2007 – 3 February 2008
Matthew Barney, 20 September – 11 November 2007
Hreinn Fridfinnsson, 17 July – 2 September 2007
Paul Chan: The 7 Lights, 15 May – 1 July 2007
Allora & Calzadilla, 17 – 29 April 2007
Karen Kilimnik, 20 February 9 April 2007
In the darkest hour there may be light, works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection, 25 November 2006 – 28 January 2007
Runa Islam, 25 October – 5 November 2006
China Power Station: Part 1, 8 October – 5 November 2006
Uncertain States of America, 9 September – 15 October 2006
Thomas Demand, 6 June – 20 August 2006
Ellsworth Kelly, 18 March – 21 May 2006
Elmgreen & Dragset, 26 January – 26 February 2006
Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, 19 October 2005 – 8 January 2006
Oliver Payne & Nick Relph, 6 September – 2 October 2005
Rirkrit Tiravanija, 5 July – 21 August 2005
Andreas Slominski, 26 April – 12 June 2005
Tomoko Takahashi, 22 February – 10 April 2005
Monika Sosnowska, 5 December 2004 – 16 January 2005
Glenn Brown, 14 September – 7 November 2004
Gabriel Orozco, 1 July - 30 August 2004
Cy Twombly, 17 April – 13 June 2004
State of Play, 3 February – 28 March 2004
Hiroshi Sugimoto, 18 November 2003 – 18 January 2004
John Currin, 9 September – 2 November 2003
Cindy Sherman, 3 June – 25 August 2003
Takahashi Murakami, 12 November 2002 – 26 January 2003
Kutlug Ataman, 11 February – 9 March 2003