

The Honorary Graduand: Sir Richard Long

Doctor of Arts

Richard Long was born in Bristol in 1945. His first school was Clifton National Infants, followed by Bishop Road Junior School, then Bedminster Down, a new comprehensive school of its time. From 1962-1965 he went to the West of England College of Art in Bristol. Between 1966-1968 he studied on the Advanced Sculpture course at St Martins School of Art, London.

In 1968 he had his first solo exhibition in Dusseldorf, Germany. Since then, he has had many exhibitions in galleries and museums around the world. Important exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art, New York 1972; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam in 1973; The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art,

Edinburgh 1974; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York in 1986; Tate Britain in 1990 and 2009; The Hayward Gallery, London in 1991; the National Modern Art Museum, Kyoto in 1996; The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam in 2023. He represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1976 and in 1990 he was given the

Premium Imperiale in the field of sculpture from Japan. In 2018, he was awarded a knighthood. Richard Long is an artist who makes art by walking. This brings the dimensions of time and distance into his work. It is about his human scale in the time and space of landscape. He has used walking as a measure of natural and cosmic events, like tides, equinoxes and eclipses of the sun and moon. He has made walks about magnetic force and gravity. He makes both road walks and wilderness walks.

Sometimes in remote places he makes sculptures along the way. These works are known through photographs, Textworks and books. He has made walks on all five continents.

Complementary indoor and public sculptures are made with simple natural materials like stones, water and mud, usually made with his hands. These follow the universal forms of the lines and circles he uses in his landscape works.