

HUXLEY-PARLOUR

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SANDRA BLOW: THE LATE WORKS

13 February – 9 March 2019

Late works by British abstract painter, Sandra Blow (1925-2006) will go on display at Huxley-Parlour Gallery in February. Blow was a leading figure of the abstract movement in Britain in the second half of the twentieth century and many of these works have only rarely been exhibited in public.

The exhibition will feature eleven large-scale works, made in paint and collage, which testify to Blow's skill as a colourist and her instinctive use of material. The works in the exhibition were made between 1972 and 2005, the year before the artist's death. Throughout her career, Blow's works incorporated tactile materials including sand, ash, plaster, wire and sacking, but it is in her late works that Blow's expert handling of both colour and form is evident. It is in the last decades of the artist's life, too, that she began to produce paintings on a monumental scale – canvases in the exhibition range in scale up to 10 feet in width.

Throughout her career, the central concerns in Blow's work remained constant: abstract form, light, space, texture and rhythm. The coastal Cornish landscape became one of the greatest sources of inspiration in her later career after she moved from London to St Ives in 1994.

Sandra Blow was born in London in 1925. She attended St Martin's School of Art (1942-46) and the Royal Academy Schools (1946-47). Between 1947 and 1950 she travelled and worked throughout Europe. It was in Italy that she met the artist Alberto Burri, who was to have an immediate influence on her work. Blow first came to Cornwall in the 1950s, where she stayed for a year before returning to London. She relocated permanently in 1994, living and working in St. Ives until her death in 2006.

Blow has work in numerous collections including Tate and the V&A Museum, London; the Arts Council of Great Britain and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Her work has been exhibited widely, notably at the Venice Biennale, Tate and the Royal Academy, London.

Notes for editors:

Sandra Blow: The Late Works will be the first painting exhibition in Huxley-Parlour's newly expanded gallery. Building on its strong foundations in photography, Huxley-Parlour Gallery is now dedicated to presenting a dynamic programme of contemporary and modern photography, painting and sculpture from the 20th and 21st centuries. The gallery will continue to focus on artists who have played a significant role in the history of art, and those who continue to shape the field in the present day.

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Touchstone 2, 2005



Brilliant Corner, 1993