



PRESS RELEASE

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SOUTH LONDON GALLERY UNVEILS ARTWORK ON FIRE STATION ANNEXE AT A DISTANCE TO THE FOREGROUND, 1999, BY LAWRENCE WEINER

The South London Gallery (SLG) is delighted to unveil artist Lawrence Weiner's work, AT A DISTANCE TO THE FOREGROUND, 1999, installed on the gable end of the SLG's Fire Station annexe.

Lawrence Weiner is one of the most important artists of his generation, known since the 1960s for his engaging and influential work presenting art as a language form. He does not identify himself as a conceptualist but rather as a sculptor whose medium is "language + the materials referred to". For him, language is a material that allows the viewer to engage in the meaning and intent of his work. In other words, the context in which they are seen by the public creates the impact on the process of interpretation. It thus invites the viewer to be a collaborator in the work process. The idea of acquiring the work for the SLG came about before lockdown and social distancing had even been considered in the UK, so the contemporary resonance of the work is both coincidental and poignant.

The work has been acquired for the SLG's permanent collection and its installation on the Fire Station follows that of another work by Weiner, ALL IN DUE COURSE, that was temporarily shown on the façade in 2014 as part of his solo show at the SLG of the same name, signalling the transition of the then semi-derelict building into a beautifully renovated annexe for the SLG.

Throughout his career spanning more than fifty years, Weiner has had major exhibitions and works acquired for important museums and galleries all over the world. AT A DISTANCE TO THE FOREGROUND is the first permanent public artwork by Lawrence Weiner in London. It has been acquired by the SLG for its contemporary art collection of some 145 works dating from 1970 onwards, and was purchased with the generous support of Art Fund, Contemporary Art Society, Candida and Zak Gertler, Marian Goodman Gallery, Alex Hank Collection Switzerland, the Henry Moore Foundation, and Neil Wenman & Jane Carr.

Margot Heller, Director, South London Gallery, said: *"I am really delighted that we are able to unveil this newly acquired work, cementing Lawrence Weiner's long association with the SLG and bringing the work of an exceptional, influential artist to a truly broad public. This is very much in keeping with Lawrence's enduring commitment to making art widely available and engaging. That the timely acquisition of this particular work marks this moment in history with such poignancy makes it all the more powerful."*

PRESS CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Lawrence Weiner

Lawrence Weiner was born in 1942 in New York City. He lives and works in New York and Amsterdam. Recent projects include a banner installed on the facade of the Jewish Museum, New York, USA in 2021 and a permanent installation at Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker, Norway unveiled in 2020. Solo exhibitions have been held at Museo Nivola, Orani, Sardinia (2019); Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL, USA (2017); Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, USA (2017); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria (2016); Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, UK (2015); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2014); Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland (2014); Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain (2013); Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2007); The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA (2008); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA (2007); Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, Mexico (2004); Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2000); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA (1994); Henry Moore Studio in Dean Clough, Halifax, England (1993); and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA (1990). He participated in documenta 5, 6, 7, and 13 (1972, 1977, 1982, 2012); the 36th, 41st, 50th and 55th Venice Biennales, Italy (1972, 1984, 2003, 2013); and the 27th Biennale de Sao Paulo, Brazil (2006). Among many honours he was awarded a DAAD Artists-in-Berlin grant, 1975; fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1976, 1983), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1994), the Wolfgang Hahn Prize, Museum Ludwig, Cologne (1995), a Skowhegan Medal for Painting/Conceptual Art (1999) an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Graduate Center, City University of New York (2013); and the Wolf Prize, Tel Aviv, Israel (2017).

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station, which opened to the public in 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and two permanent gardens.

The SLG has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free education programme includes a peer-led young people's forum; family workshops; artist-led projects and commissions on local housing estates; and a BBC Children in Need-funded programme for looked after children.

The South London Gallery is a registered charity which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.

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AT A DISTANCE TO THE FOREGROUND has been acquired for the South London Gallery's permanent art collection with generous funding from Art Fund, Contemporary Art Society, Candida and Zak Gertler, Marian Goodman Gallery, Alex Hank Collection Switzerland, the Henry Moore Foundation, and Neil Wenman & Jane Carr.