

# PHILIP JACKSON







# Philip Jackson

Solo Exhibition  
March 2017

CATTO GALLERY

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Imagine doing your job and having to think seriously about how your work will be perceived not just now but for centuries ahead. What a burden of responsibility. And yet this is the reality of life for sculptors of high profile public work. While most artists only have to be true to their own muse, the public sculptor must balance this with a responsibility to the audience of today – and of generations to come.

It takes a special breed of person with a singular kind of talent to handle this. Even among this small cohort, Philip Jackson stands out. Today, Philip is trusted with the most high profile and illustrious commissions British society can offer. His work includes The Equestrian sculpture of HM the Queen, Matt Busby and Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford, the 'In Pensioner' sculpture for the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, the Gurkha Memorial, the Wallenberg Monument, the Jersey Liberation Sculpture, the Young Mozart, the Korean War Memorial and dozens more.

Time and again, public bodies choose Philip on the basis of his technical skill, emotional sensitivity and – not least – the seriousness with which he views each new commission. He says: "Creating a public work is like writing a book. You need to study your subjects thoroughly. You have to remember that you have three audiences to think about – the people commissioning the work, the viewing public today, and the viewing public of 300 years from now."

Philip's diligence was certainly required for two of his more recent projects. In 2012, he completed the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park. This was a highly charged and occasionally controversial commission, and yet the work received unanimous praise. The elegiac memorial changed perceptions of Bomber Command, and is now one of London's most visited landmarks.

Then, in 2015, Philip completed a statue of one of the 20th century's most revered statesmen: Mahatma Gandhi. The commission in London's Parliament Square marked the 100th anniversary of Gandhi's return to India to start the campaign



for independence. Prime Minister David Cameron described it as "a magnificent tribute to one of the most towering figures in the history of world politics."

Limited edition maquettes of both Bomber Command and Gandhi are available in Philip's keenly anticipated new show at the Catto Gallery, ten years since his debut in 2007. Of course, alongside his public commissions Philip is a prolific creator of outstanding 'gallery' works. And these will form the bulk of the exhibition.

Fans of Philip's work will be thrilled to see this show delve deeper into the psychology of the human form. Curious hooded figures abound, each rising out of the ground like organic structures. Many are inspired by the masked figures of Venice – a theme the sculptor has explored for 40 years. And Philip teases immense drama from the hands and eyes of otherwise cryptic creations such as The Boat Master.

There is such skill and subtlety at play here. But then Philip has dedicated himself to his craft for around 60 years. He was born in Inverness in 1944, and was obsessed with art from an early age. He decided to be a sculptor at age 10. Over half a century later Philip is more in demand than ever, and working just as hard. Like his hero Jacob Epstein, he has no interest in retiring. One reason may be that he is a perfectionist; he sees only the flaws in his work. Another is that he simply loves his job. "Why retire if you enjoy what you are doing," he says. "Keep working on what has intrigued and beguiled you all your life."











Salieri's Fan Height 64cm Edition of 8



The Pearl Earring Height 41cm Edition of 8



Venetian Belle Height 197cm Edition of 8  
Also available Height 40cm Edition of 8





The Boat Master Height 29cm Edition of 8



Maiko Height 21 cm Edition of 8





Geisha Height 21cm Edition of 8

Silent Contemplation Height 148cm Edition of 8







Susanna without the Elders Height 20cm Edition of 8





In Vogue in Venice Height 47cm Edition of 8



The Maker of Moons Height 31cm Edition of 8





The Grandees Height 25cm Edition of 8



It Raineth Even on the Just Height 61 cm Edition of 8





The First Snow of Winter Height 54cm Edition of 8

The Glass Slipper Height 214cm Edition of 8









Candlemas Height 28 cm Edition of 8





Court of the Sun King Height 53cm Edition of 8



La Bella Luna Height 28cm Edition of 8



The Standard Bearer Height 38cm Edition of 8





Opera Box Height 26cm Edition of 8



Making an Entrance Height 56 cm Edition of 8

In 1915, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returned to his native India from South Africa, where he had worked as a lawyer. The move home began his lifelong non-violent struggle to free his country from British rule. 100 years later, a statue of the inspirational leader was unveiled in Parliament Square – the very heart of what was the British empire.

Many commentators noted the irony of this. But they also viewed the event as a reflection of progress made by the two countries. "As the father of the largest democracy in the world, it's time for Gandhi to take his place in front of the mother of Parliament," said Britain's then chancellor George Osborne.

Fund raising for the statue was led by Lord Desai, the Indian born economist and academic. Ultimately, the Memorial Trust raised more than £1m in just six months and the Government commissioned Philip Jackson to create the nine foot bronze sculpture. Philip used photographs taken in 1931 when Gandhi visited Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald at Downing Street as the basis for his work.

The unveiling was attended by Prime Minister David Cameron, Indian finance minister Arun Jaitley, Gandhi's grandson Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, and actor Amitabh Bachchan. A band played Indian classical music and Indian flags festooned the square. Culture Secretary Sajid Javid was among those delighted with Philip's work. He said: "Gandhi is one of the most inspirational figures in history and the statute will be a fitting symbol to his teachings."





Maquette of Gandhi memorial statue Height 45cm Edition of 20

# Bomber Command

It is rare for a publicly commissioned sculpture to be reproduced and made available to the public. It is even rarer when the sculpture is one of the best-loved and most high-profile in the UK.

All of which makes Philip Jackson's Bomber Command a very special investment indeed. A limited edition of twenty, 17-inch maquettes of the national monument is now on sale at the Catto Gallery.

The Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park is one of the UK's most cherished landmarks. Indeed, just a year after its unveiling, a survey of visitors to London ranked the memorial first among 883 attractions.

On June 28th 2012, 6,000 war veterans and their families gathered on a sweltering day in Green Park to attend the unveiling by Her Majesty The Queen. What followed was universal praise for a monument that achieved a perfect balance between respect for the selfless sacrifice of the men and a sorrowful regret at the wastefulness of war.

Jackson says his brief for the memorial sculpture was that it should be non-jingoistic, non-triumphalist and reflective. "I wanted to portray them as 'quietly heroic' because these men were flying six or seven missions knowing that few of them were coming back. They just kept going."

Now collectors have a chance to own a casting of the memorial, one of the sculptor's greatest public pieces and in so doing they will contribute to the preservation of the monument. A proportion of the sales price of every maquette will be donated to the Bomber Command Association to pay for the upkeep of the memorial.





Maquette of Bomber Command memorial sculpture Height 43cm Width 48cm Depth 25cm Edition of 20



# Available Large Work



The Swordmaster,  
Height 220cm



The Grandees,  
Height 242cm



The Magistrate,  
Height 218cm



Saraband,  
Height 190cm



The Last Ball of Summer,  
Height 210cm



Serenissima,  
Height 250cm



Gale Force Nun II,  
Height 185cm



The Sentinels,  
Height 364cm





Queen of the Night,  
Height 145cm



Skittles with Scarlatti,  
Height 200cm



Moonstruck,  
Height 198cm



Pas de Basque,  
Height 190cm



Exultate Jubilate,  
Height 216cm



The Don,  
Height 212cm



Un Ballo in Maschera,  
Height 175cm



Don Ottavio,  
Height 215cm

# Major Public Works



St Richard, Chichester



Christ in Judgement



Constantine, York Minster



Gurkha Monument



HM Queen Elizabeth



Sir Alex Ferguson



St John the Evangelist, Portsmouth





Terence Cuneo, Chatham



The Yomper



The Young Mozart



Wallenberg Monument



Bobby Moore, Wembley



HM The Queen



The United Trinity, Manchester



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Opening times: 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat • 12.30pm - 6pm Sunday • and by appointment

Exhibition dates: 23rd March – 17th April 2017