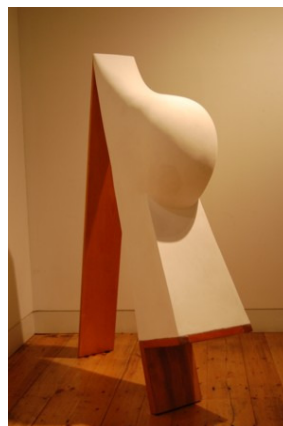


PHILLIP KING PRESENTS SCULPTURE TO THE COURTAULD

Phillip King (b.1934), one of Britain's foremost sculptors and former president of the Royal Academy of Arts, and his wife, the novelist Judy Corbalis, have presented to The Courtauld Gallery one of King's seminal early sculptures: *Drift*, 1961. Ernst Vegelin, Head of The Courtauld Gallery, said "Since the founding of The Courtauld in 1932, we have relied almost entirely upon gifts and bequests of great generosity to build our extraordinary collection of works of art. We are thrilled to receive *Drift* which will significantly enhance our modern British collections, an area which we are actively seeking to expand as we develop our 20th century holdings in the years ahead."

During the 1960s, Phillip King emerged as one of the leading figures of the celebrated 'New Generation' group of British Sculptors having studied under Anthony Caro at St Martin's School of Art and worked as an apprentice to Henry Moore. *Drift* is among a small group of works made at this time which marked the beginning of King's radical new approach to sculpture. Abandoning his earlier figurative style, King explored an ostensibly abstract sculptural language whilst retaining strong connections with organic forms. *Drift* emerged from King's interest in the ancient origins of sculpture, inspired by the primitive act of lifting stones from the ground to an upright position. Accordingly, *Drift's* leaning slabs of wood and painted cement reference prehistoric standing stones, whilst the bulbous 'pregnant' form carries associations of maternity. The pendulous 'drip' creates a strong sense of tension as the wooden planks brace against its weighty downward pull. The sculpture's near life-size scale and placement directly on the floor, unmediated by an isolating pedestal, contribute to its strong physical presence.



Phillip King (b. 1934)
Drift, conceived in 1961
(cast in an edition of 3 in c.1964)
Painted cement and wood
152 x 117 x 36 cm

Drift is now on display in Room 14 in The Courtauld Gallery together with a newly displayed group of modern British paintings and sculptures.

Opening hours: Daily 10 am to 6 pm, last admission 5.30 pm

Admission: Adult: £5.00, concessions: £4.00
Free admission: Mondays 10 am to 2 pm
Free at all times for under 18s, full-time UK students and unwaged

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