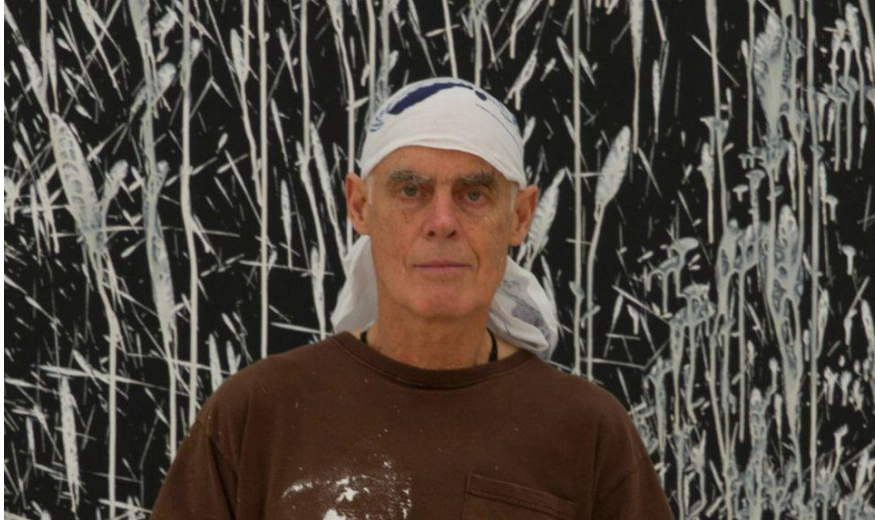


Richard Long Named 2015 Whitechapel Art Icon



Portrait of Richard Long, Photo James Wainman, Courtesy of Lisson Gallery

London's Whitechapel Gallery has announced that it will honour renowned British sculptor, photographer, and painter **Richard Long** as the Whitechapel Gallery Art Icon, which celebrates the lifetime achievements of one of our greatest artists. The first recipient of the award was Howard Hodgkin in 2014. Long, the 2015 Art Icon, will be presented with the award, which is supported by the The Swarovski Foundation at a special gala dinner hosted by Whitechapel Gallery Director Iwona Blazwick OBE on March 19, 2015.

Long was born in Bristol, UK in 1945, where he continues to live and work. He has been at the forefront of conceptual art in Britain since he created "A Line Made by Walking" (1967), a photograph of the path left by his feet in the grass. Long describes his work as "Art made by walking in landscapes; Photographs of sculptures made along the way; Walks made into textworks." His first major solo exhibition, which took place at the Whitechapel gallery in 1971, exhibition caused shockwaves when it was unveiled to the British public.

Whitechapel Gallery Director, Iwona Blazwick OBE, said: "Richard Long revolutionised installation art, fusing together performance, landscape, language and photography. His 1971 exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery was radical, filling the space with a huge cross made of pine needles. He is the Whitechapel Gallery Art Icon because he is a pioneer. At a time when concern about the environment is critical and live art, sculpture and performance poetry is seeing a huge resurgence, Richard Long has never been more important. He is a revelation and inspiration to successive generations of artists."