

Darwin Bi-Centenary Table Sculpture

Sold



REF: 10834

Height: 82 cm (32.3")

Width: 186 cm (73.2")

Depth: 58 cm (22.8")

Description

DARWIN BI-CENTENARY TABLE SCULPTURE : Laurence Edwards (b. 1967) in collaboration with Lucy Johnson

This table sculpture was conceived as a tribute to one of the most original and influential thinkers in the history of science. The bronze sculptures were commissioned from Laurence Edwards and are unique. The forms, lines and space shift as the viewpoint changes, and the narrative is thought provoking.

LAURENCE EDWARDS: When Lucy Johnson asked me if I would consider making a table to celebrate Charles Darwin. I explained that I was not a furniture maker, and could not conceive of ever being one.

If I was to take the project on, I had to find a way of thinking about a table that would allow me to consider it as a sculpture. Before problems of composition and 'making it look interesting', I had to think of what the tabletop could mean. I thought of the plane as a threshold. It could represent a border or a barrier, a ceiling or lid. I could see the heavy top representing the restrictive, conservative social pressures, which thinkers like Darwin overcame.

With these ideas, I could now consider the look of the table and what would happen in the shadows under it. I thought of casting wood into bronze, I liked the idea of two versions of the same material, the old wood of the top and the bronze of the branches below. The bronze presenting a different view of wood. The material this table was made of, could therefore mirror the way in which people were having to question how they evolved, after reading 'The origin of the species'.

With this conceptual framework in place I wanted to add a narrative. I decided to place a mysterious seated figure bearing antlers, in one of the woodlands. These long antlers extended from the characters head beyond the borders of the trees, preventing him from moving; his own head in effect imprisoning him. He looks sheepishly from his wooded cell, at another man running from him. This running man could represent the idea of Darwin, or at the very least the idea of the pursuit of knowledge.

He is thinking out from the shadows, seeking light, daring to question what might be on top.

LUCY JOHNSON: While reading Bicentenary articles and visiting the Darwin exhibitions at the Natural History Museum and in Cambridge, I was struck how his theories of evolution by natural selection and adaption to particular environments have contributed more to our understanding of the world than any other, and brought about a revolution in how we think about ourselves and the natural world.

This inspired me to create a tribute to one of the most original and influential thinkers in the history of science; a piece of art but in abstract form.

I wanted Laurence Edwards of Creek Men fame, to sculpt the base for the table. One of the figureheads in the contemporary art world, his work has great integrity reflecting how he considers and engages with his subject, creating work that is incredibly subtle and powerful, while pushing boundaries to their limit. His closeness to the land and its cycles and rhythms, lie at the heart of his sensibility, and his art addresses past, present and future, stimulating strong thoughts and ideas about who and what we are, ...