

CONNAUGHT BROWN

2 ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON W1S 4HD

TEL 020-7408 0362, FAX 020-7495 3137

art@connaughtbrown.co.uk www.connaughtbrown.co.uk

Boaz Vaadia: Sculpture

14th October – 22nd November, 2014



Boaz Vaadia, *Shallum*, bronze, basalt, and bluestone, 77 x 41 x 29 in, 195.6 x 104.1 x 73.7 cm

Connaught Brown is delighted to announce an exhibition of new work by the New York-based, Israeli sculptor Boaz Vaadia. The exhibition will consist of eight new bronze and stone sculptures which reveal his continued exploration into “the primal connection of Man to Mother Earth”.

Born in 1951, Vaadia was brought up on his family’s farm in Israel. It was this upbringing which first gave him a profound “respect for nature” which defines his practice. In 1975 he moved to New York where he studied at the Brooklyn Museum Art School and the Pratt Institute. Vaadia used the city as a medium, sourcing refuse slate, shingle, bluestone and boulders from the area surrounding his SoHo studio.

With reverence for the natural materials he found, Vaadia developed an intricate technique of carefully hand-carving layers of slate.

Featured in the exhibition will be a number of Vaadia's iconic figurative sculptures, including his monumental basalt and bluestone work *Hulda*. In sculptures such as this Vaadia explores the inherent relationship between man and earth. Whether sitting or crouching, grouped in pairs or standing alone, his figures are humble yet powerful, like the very materials they are made from. Named after Old Testament characters and often set in meditative poses, Vaadia's figures also possess a profound spiritual quality.

In his most recent practice, Vaadia has begun to work with the motif of the family in a series of slate reliefs. For Vaadia "the family unit and its connections are very primal". He has imagined these works in archaic terms, referencing the classical reliefs of Ancient Greece and Rome. Throughout his oeuvre Vaadia has alluded to the art of antiquity, the statuesque presence of his figures resonating with Egyptian pharaohs, Greek kouroi and statues of Buddha. Lacking detailed characteristics, his sculptures become universal images of Man.

Vaadia's sculptures are permanently sited in many prominent public locations, museums, and private collections across the world, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Museum, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Ravina Sculpture Park in Chicago. A monograph on Vaadia's work *Boaz Vaadia: Sculpture 1971 – 2012* was published by Hudson Hills Press in 2013.

This fourth solo exhibition of Boaz Vaadia's sculptures at Connaught Brown follows on from his hugely successful shows in 2011, 2008 and in 2006.

For more information and images please contact Ruth Millington at art@connaughtbrown.co.uk