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Baldwin & Guggisberg: Under an Equal Sky
A series of installations for Canterbury Cathedral
26 May–11 November, 2018



From 26 May to 11 November, Canterbury Cathedral will be home to an exhibition of large-scale glass installations by international artists Baldwin & Guggisberg. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, *Under an Equal Sky* will take the viewer on a journey that begins with 100 glass amphorae suspended in the shape of a ship and ends with a glass wall of multi-coloured vessels.

Under an Equal Sky will bring together major new works reflecting on themes of war and remembrance and focusing in particular on the civilian casualties of war. Baldwin & Guggisberg's use of glass as their principal medium in the exhibition is intended to reflect the fragile nature of humanity, with the symbolism of boats and empty vessels bringing to mind sadly familiar images of our times: refugees packed precariously into boats, fleeing for their lives, and migrants seeking new horizons. The context of Canterbury Cathedral – itself a place of refuge across the centuries – underpins the exhibition's intent. Each work has been created in dialogue with the building and with its rich history and community in mind.

The works will be exhibited throughout the Cathedral building, beginning with *Boat of Remembrance*, an installation in the Cathedral's Nave of 100 clear glass amphorae hanging in the shape of a ship, each one representing a year of remembrance but also underscoring the continuing consequences of war: the 22.5 million people currently seeking safety abroad as well as those still losing their lives in conflict.

Other highlights include a series of four glass sentinels, *The Four Assassins*, positioned to overlook the site of Thomas Becket's murder in 1170; one of Baldwin & Guggisberg's signature glass mobiles, *People's Mobile*, a work that deliberately forces the viewer to take a moment for contemplation as they move round and observe it; and *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*, a triptych in the Cathedral's Chapter House that reflects on the challenges of future change.

Baldwin & Guggisberg have also collaborated with the Cathedral's stonemasons to create *The Stone Boat* crafted from Caen stone. Working with craftspeople whose skills have been practised in the Cathedral for hundreds of years and using the material from which the building itself was made, the artists have found a way of binding the Cathedral community past and present, as well as themselves, into a single work.

Nick Papadopolous, Canon Treasurer at Canterbury Cathedral comments: 'Baldwin & Guggisberg's work is evocative, profound and deeply moving. We are thrilled to host *Under an Equal Sky* and believe it will greatly enrich our visitors' experience of this holy place as the centenary of 1918's Armistice approaches.'

Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg have lived and worked together for nearly 40 years, in Sweden, Switzerland, France and now in rural Wales. They work predominantly in glass, and exhibit all over the world. They are represented in numerous private and museum collections internationally.

<http://www.baldwinguggisberg.com>

Ends

For more press information, please contact Iliana Taliotis on +44 (0)7931 341 112 or mail@ilianataliotis.com

Notes to editors

Image caption:

Detail from Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Free-blown and cold-worked glass

170 x 90 x 35cm

Photo: Alex Ramsay

About Baldwin & Guggisberg

Philip Baldwin (b1947) was born in New York; Monica Guggisberg (b1955) in Bern, Switzerland. Both are old enough to have been born in the shadow of the Second World War. While Monica grew up in a country that has the honour of being the oldest neutral country in the world, Philip's early memories are filled with the stories of relatives who never returned from the front line. They have worked as a team since 1980 after learning to blow glass in Sweden, and now live in rural Wales. Describing themselves as 'migratory creatures', they exhibit all over the world. They have always travelled, absorbing new thinking and influences as they go, taking their culture, skills and ideas for new work with them.

About Canterbury Cathedral

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Mother Church for millions of Anglicans worldwide and a living, working church where the rhythm of worship is celebrated daily. Since the Middle Ages, visitors have been making their way to the Cathedral and today nearly one million people visit every year, making the Cathedral one of the most visited places in the UK.

In addition to its beautiful and extraordinary mix of architectural styles, the Cathedral also houses the most important collection of early medieval stained glass windows in the country. Together with St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church, the Cathedral is part of Canterbury's UNESCO World Heritage Site.

www.canterbury-cathedral.org

Cathedral and exhibition opening hours:

Weekdays and Saturdays 9am to 5.30pm (the Crypt from 10am)

Sundays 12.30pm to 2.30pm, including the Crypt

Normal Precincts charges apply during the exhibition. Please check the website for any closures due to services, events or conservation work.