

HAYWARD GALLERY PRESENTS A SOLO SHOW OF SHEILA HICKS

SHEILA HICKS **FORAY INTO CHROMATIC ZONES**

Hayward Gallery Project Space
Admission Free
23 February – 19 April 2015

Private view: Monday 23 February 2015, 6:30-8:30pm

The Hayward Gallery Project Space presents an exhibition by Sheila Hicks, marking the artist's first solo show in a UK public institution. Renowned for blurring boundaries between textile traditions, art, design and architecture, Hicks has distinguished herself over the past five decades as one of the most influential figures in contemporary art working with supple materials. Hicks has always paid homage to age-old indigenous manual practices in form-making, thus allowing her works to have a distinctive voice in modernist abstraction.

Much of Sheila Hicks' site-specific work responds to and animates the surrounding architecture, offering a compliment and contrast to the hard, structural materials with her soft, pliable installations. Hicks has created an environment in the Hayward's Project Space as a response to the gallery's unique location and design which houses Dan Graham's *Waterloo Sunset* Pavilion. Through the curved, translucent walls of the Pavilion, Hicks' brightly coloured masses of pigmented fibres will be clearly visible to the passing traffic on Waterloo Bridge.

Within the Project Space, visitors can interact with recent large-scale works such as *The Baôli Chords*, *Cascade Turquoise* and *Palitos Con Bolas*, while discovering the cityscape of London. In addition, a selection of Hicks' fibre-based calligraphic drawings will be presented along with her 'Minimes': intimate weavings, which the artist has made throughout her career. A selection of studies of Hicks' commissions for architecture will also be included in the exhibition, along with related material for her Ford Foundation tapestries in New York - first realised in 1967, and re-created in 2013/14.

During her travels as a Fulbright scholar through South America in 1957-8, Hicks photographed and documented archeological sites and indigenous weavers, while also painting and teaching at the architecture faculty of the Catholic University in Santiago, Chile. In her 50-year career, colour, texture and structure have been integral to Hicks' work, a result of her training in Bauhaus principles at Yale University.

Hicks established her studio in Paris in 1964, where she lives and works.

The exhibition is curated by Stephanie Rosenthal, Hayward Gallery Chief Curator and Dominik Czechowski, Hayward Gallery Assistant Curator.

For press information contact:

Filipa Mendes filipa.mendes@southbankcentre.co.uk on 020 7921 0672 or 07531 643279

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Notes to Editors:

Listings Information:

SHEILA HICKS

FORAY INTO CHROMATIC ZONES

Hayward Gallery Project Space

Admission Free

23 February – 19 April 2015

Monday, 12 noon – 6pm

Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 7pm

Thursday and Friday, 11am – 8pm

Visitor information: <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk>

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

About Sheila Hicks:

Sheila Hicks was born in Hastings, Nebraska (1934) and received her BFA and MFA degrees from Yale University, where she studied under the tutelage of Josef Albers, George Kubler and other key figures in contemporary art and theory. While travelling in South America on a scholarship to paint, she developed her interest in working with fibres. After founding workshops in Mexico, Chile, and South Africa, and working in Morocco and India, she now divides her time between her Paris studio and New York.

Hicks has exhibited internationally and was included in the São Paulo Biennial in 2012; one of her site-specific installations was recently part of Whitney Biennial 2014; and *Baôli*, is a yearlong installation at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2014/15). A major retrospective *Sheila Hicks: 50 Years* debuted at the Addison Gallery of American Art (2010) and travelled to the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia and the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC (both in 2011). Hicks' work is featured in the group show *Fiber: Sculpture 1960–present* at the ICA Boston (2014/15) and the exhibition will tour nationally to the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (February 7 – April 12, 2015) and Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (May 8, 2015 – August 2, 2015).

Hicks' work is also included in such collections as the Tate Gallery, London; Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, both in New York City; Museum of Fine Arts Boston; The Art Institute of Chicago; Museo de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile; and the Museums of Modern Art, Tokyo and Kyoto. One-person exhibitions include those at the Seoul Art Center, Korea; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

About Hayward Gallery:

Hayward Gallery has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists. Opened by Her Majesty, The Queen in 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. It was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and

Ron Herron. Hayward Gallery is named after the late Sir Isaac Hayward, the former leader of the London County Council.

Hayward Gallery has gained an international reputation for staging major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions in its 46 year history. The forthcoming Hayward Gallery exhibition is *History Is Now: 7 Artists Take On Britain* (10 February – 26 April 2015) for which Seven artists - John Akomfrah, Simon Fujiwara, Roger Hiorns, Hannah Starkey, Richard Wentworth, and Jane and Louise Wilson – have each been invited to curate sections looking at particular periods of British cultural history from 1945 to the present day. Key exhibitions throughout Hayward Gallery's history have included those by Martin Creed, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, Jeremy Deller, Anish Kapoor, Rene Magritte, Frances Bacon and David Shrigley, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show* and *Psycho Buildings*.

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, comprising three iconic buildings (Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery) and occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Building on this rich heritage, Southbank Centre offers an extensive artistic and cultural programme including annual and one-off themed festivals and classical and contemporary music, performance, dance, visual art and literature and spoken word events throughout the year.

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