

Nasher Sculpture Center



Press Release

Nasher Sculpture Center Announces *Giuseppe Penone: Being the River, Repeating the Forest*

First U.S. museum exhibition in over 30 years highlights the career of one of the founders of the Arte Povera movement

DALLAS, Texas (June 24, 2015) – Nasher Sculpture Center announces a major exhibition of the work of the influential Italian artist, Giuseppe Penone, in an exhibition called *Being the River, Repeating the Forest* which opens September 19, 2015 and runs through January 10, 2016.

Italian artist Giuseppe Penone has played an integral role in the development of art over the past five decades. From his conceptual and performative works of the 1960s and 70s to the large-scale sculptural installations of the past ten years, Penone has explored intimate, sensate, and metaphysical connections with nature. Working in a stunning variety of materials—including clay, wood, stone, metal, plaster, resin, acacia thorns—the artist makes palpable and present the analogous processes of nature and art: carving large trees along their growth patterns to reveal the sapling contained within; elaborating the interior space of his closed hand into a large-scale sculpture that both contains his hand and enlarges the space it contains; rendering the swirling mists of his breath in the cold in tactile clay forms that contain the impression of his body. The exhibition at the Nasher Sculpture Center will feature a selection of work in a variety of materials highlighting the development of Penone’s ideas over the course of his career.

“In his exceptionally various and nuanced work, Giuseppe Penone shows us that within the recognizable forms of trees, clay, and stone is housed an immense amount of information, both about specific materials and the human body’s relationship to them,” says Director Jeremy Strick. “In many ways, Penone’s work is a lesson in seeing, highlighting the history of a material’s experience and subsequently drawing connections to our own human one. Penone’s exhibition at the Nasher will provide an intensive encounter with a wide range of the artist’s meaningful, process-rich work.”

The exhibition will feature close to twenty works from Penone’s long career, including *Patate (Potatoes)*, 1977, for which the artist used molds of his face to shape the growth of the tuber, and *Soffio di foglie (Breath of Leaves)*, 1979, wherein Penone uses his body and breath to carve and impress his form into a massive pile of leaves. The title of the exhibition comes from two series of works by Penone: *Being the River*, which documents the artist’s attempt to carve by hand a rock found at the source of a river to replicate a rock found at the mouth of the river carved by the ceaseless flow of the water; and *Repeating the Forest*, the aforementioned series of squared wooden beams carved along their growth lines to reveal the sapling at the core, a project that Penone began in 1969 and continues to this day. The two series are emblematic of Penone’s wider

oeuvre, connecting the creative forces of the artist with those of nature and underlining the intimate, complex connection between humans and the world we inhabit.

About Giuseppe Penone:

Giuseppe Penone was born in 1947 in Garesio, Italy, and currently lives and works in Turin and Paris. He was one of the younger founding members of the influential Italian art movement Arte Povera in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arte in Turin, Italy. Giuseppe Penone's earliest exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1970), Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne (1977); Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden (1978); and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1980). More recently he has exhibited at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland (2013), the Whitechapel Gallery, London (2012), the Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy (2008) and had a retrospective at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2004). Short listed for the Turner Prize in 1989, Penone has exhibited in Documenta V (1972), VII (1982), VIII (1987) and XIII (2012) and at the Venice Biennale (2007, 1995, 1986, 1980, and 1978).

About the Nasher Sculpture Center:

Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world. The longtime dream of the late Raymond and Patsy Nasher, the museum was designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano, in collaboration with landscape architect Peter Walker, to seamlessly integrate the indoor galleries with the outdoor garden spaces, creating a museum experience unlike any other in the world. In addition to gallery spaces, the Center contains an auditorium, education and research facilities, a cafe, and an award-winning store.

On view in the light-filled galleries and amid the garden grounds are rotating works from the Collection, which features more than 300 masterpieces by Calder, Giacometti, Matisse, Picasso, Rodin, and many more modern masters, as well as rotating installations by celebrated and emerging contemporary artists. In dialogue with the Collection and special exhibitions, the Nasher also offers an elevated series of special programs, including artist talks, lecture programs, contemporary chamber music concerts, artist-led classes, and exclusive member events, all meant to enrich the museum experience and highlight the Center as a catalyst for the study, installation, conservation and appreciation of modern and contemporary sculpture.

The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and until 11 pm for special events, and from 10 am to 5 pm on the first Saturday of each month. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for members and children 12 and under, and includes access to special exhibitions. For more information, visit www.NasherSculptureCenter.org.

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