

Standpoint

Mark Tanner Sculpture Award

John Wallbank





John Wallbank is the 9th winner of the Mark Tanner Sculpture Award.

He was selected as winner in 2009, and will be presenting his solo exhibition at Standpoint Gallery in September 2010. The guest selector was **Cornelia Parker**.

John Wallbank makes ambitiously scaled installations and domestically scaled objects from complex combinations of abstracted and eviscerated material. All his pieces have a strong integral sense of drawing; a particular and eloquent line (he was included in the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2009). New works incorporate sheaths or elements made from vacuum-formed perspex, its almost molten clarity glazing the contained form with a seductive smoothness. Conceptually his practice is sunk into the act of making, the process and the thinking inseparable.

In dealing with the act of making as a thing in itself rather than a means to obtaining a form or image, Wallbank's objects act almost as stand-ins for, or approximations of, things that inhabit the world. Currently he is exploring the concept of the packable and unpackable, both in its practical applications and conceptually as a metaphor for the adaptability that modern living requires of all species, particularly humanity. He is concerned for that which is temporary, compact, multifunctional or reproducible in multiple situations.

Ultimately it is the act of translation as much as the source that interests Wallbank. What often results are samples or examples, suggestions of what is possible. Rather than a vocabulary of forms he develops vocabularies of making and function - containing, supporting, joining, decorating, displaying. The language employed operates in 2D and 3D concurrently - a line may be a saw cut, a bent wire or a sausage of clay. A single thread is woven into fabric, out of which complex 3 dimensional forms grow.

This coherence of Wallbank's thinking, his language accruing through the metaphors and terminology of building into coherent phrases and sentences, is made apparent in his environments' and objects' machinic sense of urgency and purpose. Though static they appear designed to act.





The Mark Tanner Sculpture Award is the largest sculpture prize of its kind in the UK. It is unique in its combination of offering both financial support towards the production of new work and a solo exhibition to an exceptional emerging sculptor.

Originated in 2001, The Tanner award increased to a total of £10,000 in 2005. £6,000 goes direct to the receiving artist towards the production of new work, and £4,000 funds and promotes the solo exhibition held at Standpoint Gallery the following year. We also support the artist through studio visits and opportunities for professional development throughout the year.

The Tanner award is a partnership project by Standpoint Gallery and the charitable trust set up in memory of the sculptor Mark Tanner, who trained at St Martins and was one of the first artists to show at Standpoint. He died in 1998 after a long illness.

Standpoint Gallery is a leading artist-run gallery and project space based in Hoxton. We do not represent artists. We curate exhibitions and develop projects from submission and invitation. All projects are developed in collaboration with selected artists and aim to provide a platform for innovative new work and ideas. Standpoint is a recognised centre of excellence for artist-led activity and debate - our programme of public exhibitions, performances, talks and discussions aims to promote diverse experimentation and analysis in all areas of contemporary practice.

The Tanner award forms an important constituent part of our core aims - to act as a platform for artists outside the commercial gallery system, to support the diversity and vibrancy of artistic production, to promote excellence and commitment in the artist as maker, and to provide an arena for artists' networks and professional development.

Our visual art development residencies – Standpoint Futures – offer intensive input to the practice and career of talented emerging/mid career artists from across the UK and internationally.

For more information on John Wallbank, the Mark Tanner Sculpture Award or Standpoint please contact curator **Fiona MacDonald on 0207 739 4921 / standpointgallery@btconnect.com**

John Wallbank CV

Education

2002 2004 MFA, Slade School of Fine Art
1995 2000 BA Fine Art, Edinburgh College of Art and University of Edinburgh
1994 1995 Foundation Studies in Art and Design, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design

Solo Exhibitions

2010 The Mark Tanner Sculpture Award Exhibition, Standpoint Gallery, London
2007 Hazard All, Studio 1.1, London
2004 Roots Room, supported by the European Commission, Moving Station, Pilsen, Czech Republic
2001 Self-Assembly, New Work Scotland 5, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh

Group Exhibitions

2010 No Soul For Sale – A Festival of Independents, curated by Maurizio Cattelan, Cecilia Alemani and Massimiliano Gioni, Tate Modern, London
2010 The Jerwood Drawing Prize, selected by Tania Kovats
2009 Creekside Open, curated by Jenni Lomax, APT Gallery, London
2008 Summary, Studio 1.1, London
2007 etc, curated by Sotiris Kyriacou, Amagerfælledvej Projects, Copenhagen
2007 Salon 2007, New British Painting and Works on Paper, curated by Sotiris Kyriacou and Flora Fairbairn, London
2007 Abstract Continuous, Studio 1.1, London
2006 Zoo Art Fair, Studio 1.1, London
2006 Grotto, Studio 1.1, London
2005 Sleigh, Arts and Business, London
2004 Zoo Art Fair, Program, London
2004 Here we are. Where?, curated by Krzysztof Lukomski, Galeria Slodownia, Poznan, Poland
2002 Klasterní Projekt, Chotešov Convent, Czech Republic
2001 Scale, Chyornaya Vdova, Novosibirsk, Russia

Residencies and Projects

2008 Triangle Artists' Workshop, Brooklyn, New York
2007 CPH AIR City
of Copenhagen artist in residence, Denmark
2004 Artist in residence Moving Station, Pilsen, Czech Republic
2002 Artist in residence Zakladni Umelecka Skola, Bechyne, Czech Republic

Awards and Grants

2010 Mark Tanner Sculpture Award, Standpoint Gallery, London
2001 Creative and professional development grant, Scottish Arts Council
2000 Andrew Grant Bequest, Edinburgh College of Art

Press

jameswagner.com (USA), "photo, light, chance, design: John Wallbank's studio", 1st October 2008
jameswagner.com (USA), "Triangle Arts Open Studios this Saturday in DUMBO", 24th September 2008
Weekendavisen (Denmark), "Overblik", Mette Sandbye, 9th November, 2007
Politiken (Denmark), "Fem forfriskninger i nedrivningsmodne omgivelser", Kristine Kern, 3rd November 2007