

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**
HAYWARD TOURING

BALTIC

For immediate release

JOHN CAGE:

EVERY DAY IS A GOOD DAY

A Hayward Touring Exhibition

**BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art,
Gateshead**
19 June – 5 September 2010



John Cage
River Rocks and Smoke: 4-11-90 #1 (1990)
Courtesy The John Cage Trust at Bard

This new Hayward Touring exhibition is the first major survey of the visual art of the American composer, writer and artist John Cage (1912–1992). The exhibition was conceived by artist Jeremy Millar, and organised by Hayward Touring in collaboration with BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and the John Cage Trust. The exhibition opens at BALTIC in June 2010, after which it will tour to Kettle's Yard, Cambridge; Huddersfield Art Gallery; Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery, Glasgow and De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea.

John Cage was one of the leading avant-garde composers of the twentieth century, most famous perhaps for his silent work of 1952, *4'33"*. Cage was closely connected with art and artists throughout his long career. He collaborated frequently with Robert Rauschenberg and the dance choreographer Merce Cunningham, was a friend of Jasper Johns and Marcel Duchamp, and was a major influence on the Fluxus artists of the 1960s and '70s. It was not until he was in his mid-sixties that he began to practise seriously as a visual artist himself, producing over 600 prints with the Crown Point Press in San Francisco, as well as 260 drawings and watercolours. In these works he applied the same chance-determined procedures that he used in his musical compositions.

This exhibition, the largest ever organised, presents over 100 works on paper, spanning his whole visual art career, including his extraordinary *Ryonaji* series, described by the art critic David Sylvester as 'among the most beautiful prints and drawings made anywhere in the 1980s'. In these works he drew around the outlines of stones scattered (according to chance) across the paper or printing plate, in one case drawing around 3,375 individually placed stones. He also experimented with burning or soaking the paper, and applied complex, painstaking procedures at each stage of the printmaking process.

Inspired by John Cage's own practice, the exhibition will differ markedly from a conventional touring show. Each showing will be selected and hung according to chance operations, using a computer-generated random number programme similar to the Chinese oracle, the 'I Ching', which is essentially a random number programme. This will result in works being hung at different heights and in arrangements and groupings that no curator would ordinarily choose. Further changes will occur at intervals during each showing, a number of works being added or withdrawn. Cage himself, who disliked linear displays, employed this method in several exhibitions, notably *Rolywholyover*, in Los Angeles in 1992, which he described a 'composition for museum'.

The exhibition will reveal the radicalism and continuing relevance of John Cage's ideas across all the media and disciplines in which he worked. The tour will involve an ambitious ongoing programme of musical events and activities at each showing, organised by the partner venues. BALTIC will collaborate with neighbouring concert hall, The Sage Gateshead, and in Huddersfield the showing will coincide with Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, which Cage himself attended in 1989. Details of events will be available from each gallery nearer the time of their showing.

The book accompanying the exhibition will be the first to cover all aspects of John Cage's graphic art, with more than sixty plates and other illustrations, interviews conducted by Jeremy Millar with people who knew Cage well and are authorities on his work, a 'Cage Companion' of quotations and commentaries on important aspects of his life and work, and a substantial extract from an interview with Cage by the American art critic Irving Sandler.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

- The exhibition is organised by Hayward Touring with the close support and guidance of the John Cage Trust in collaboration with BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.
- For over 35 years, the Hayward Gallery has played a key role in creating imaginative, high profile exhibitions in London and within the UK through Hayward Touring. The touring programme and the Arts Council Collection are managed by the Hayward Gallery on behalf of Arts Council England, and add to the Hayward's distinctive national remit.
- The Hayward Gallery is a constituent part of Southbank Centre, which manages the Royal Festival Hall, the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, as well as the Saison Poetry Library, the Arts Council Collection and Hayward Touring Exhibitions on behalf of Arts Council England. It attracts more than 3 million visits annually. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following a major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.
- BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 3 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

TOURING INFORMATION TO DATE:

19 June - 5 September 2010 - BALTIC, Gateshead

September - 14 November 2010 - Kettle's Yard, Cambridge

20 November - 9 January 2011 - Museum and Art Gallery, Huddersfield

19 February - 3 April 2011 - Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow

16 April - 5 June 2011 - De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea

GALLERY INFORMATION:

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
Gateshead Quays
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 191 478 1810
Fax: +44 (0) 191 478 1922
Email: info@balticmill.com
Website: www.balticmill.com

ADMISSION FREE

Opening hours:

Monday – Sunday: 10.00 - 18.00 except Tuesdays: 10.30 – 18.00

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further press information or images, please contact Gillian Fox in Southbank Centre press office on 020 7921 0631 or email gillian.fox@southbankcentre.co.uk

For further media information regarding BALTIC please contact Ann Cooper Head of Communications at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art on T: 0191 440 4915 or E: annc@balticmill.com



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

