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ADAA The Art Show *Yoko Ono: The Bronze Age* Booth A27

November 2 - 6, 2022



Yoko Ono, *Painting to Be Stepped On*, 1966 / 1988

Galerie Lelong & Co. is pleased to present at the 34th edition of ADAA The Art Show with a solo presentation by Yoko Ono, titled *The Bronze Age*.

Perhaps best known for her performance art, music, and social activism, Yoko Ono is indisputably one of the most important artists working today. She is a pioneering artist in movements ranging from Fluxus to Feminism, and in recent years, has been increasingly reappraised for her centrality in many artistic movements of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. On view at The Art Show are several works that were first conceptualized in the 1960s, and then reimaged as bronze objects in 1988. Doubly conceptual in their content and meaning, works such as *Painting to Be Stepped On* separate painting, or more specifically, artmaking, into two different functions: the instructions and the realization. According to Ono, such work becomes a reality only when others participate with the work, and such instructions can be realized by different people in a variety of ways. What results are infinite transformations of the work that even the artist cannot foresee, bringing the intangible concept of time into painting.

Many of these bronze works were first presented in Ono's exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1989, *Yoko Ono: Objects, Films*—the artist's first major exhibition following a hiatus from solo presentations in galleries or museums for nearly 20 years. For the exhibition, Ono placed the more fragile earlier versions in dialogue with the heavy bronze casts. In an interview for the *New York Times*, the artist commented: "There seemed like a shimmering air in the 60s when I made these pieces, and now the air is bronzified. Now it's the 80s, and bronze is very 80s in a way—solidity, commodity, all of that. For someone who went through the 60s revolution, there has of course been an incredible change. . . I call the pieces petrified bronze. That freedom, all the hope and wishes are in some ways petrified." Displayed on our booth's walls, visitors are welcome to peruse photographs from the historic exhibition.

Alexandra Munroe, art historian and curator of the groundbreaking survey *YES YOKO ONO* (2000) observed in its accompanying catalogue that the bronze works reflect the cultural attitudes of Reagan's America marked by psychological and social violence and Ono's enduring aspirations for a world without war. Exhibited in 2022, almost six decades from when they were first conceptualized, Ono's vision has only grown with urgency.

As a conceptualist with work that encompasses performance, instructions, film, music, and writing, the artist has maintained an active practice and in 2022 staged a global intervention by broadcasting her powerful, universal mantra "IMAGINE PEACE" on the world's most prominent digital screens every evening in Berlin, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Milan, New York, Seoul, and Tokyo through March 2022. Ono also created a new time-limited edition silkscreen print which raised over £250,000 for United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

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ARTWORK HIGHLIGHTS



Yoko Ono
Painting to Be Stepped On, 1966 / 1988
Title, date, and artist initials engraved at bottom
Bronze
18 x 14 x 1 1/2 in (45.7 x 35.6 x 3.8 cm)
Edition of 9 with 2 AP
© Yoko Ono
Courtesy of Galerie Lelong & Co., New York



Yoko Ono
Painting to Hammer a Nail In, 1961 (concept) / 1966 / 1988
Bronze
11 7/8 x 8 5/8 x 1 3/4 in (30 x 22 x 4.4 cm)
Edition of 9 with 2 APs
© Yoko Ono
Courtesy of Galerie Lelong & Co., New York



Yoko Ono
To Be Appreciated Only When It's Broken, conceived 1967 / cast 1988
Bronze
14 1/4 x 11 x 1 1/4 in (36.2 x 27.9 x 3.2 cm)
Edition of 9 with 2 APs
© Yoko Ono
Courtesy of Galerie Lelong & Co., New York

About the artist

Yoko Ono is a multi-media artist whose thought-provoking work challenges people's understanding of art and the world around them. From the beginning of her career, she has been a conceptualist with work that encompasses performance, instructions, film, music, and writing.

Yoko Ono was born in Tokyo in 1933, and moved to New York in 1953, following her studies in philosophy in Japan. By the late 50s, she had become part of the city's vibrant avant-garde activities. In 1960, she opened her Chambers Street loft to a series of radical performance work, and realizations of some of her early conceptual works. In 1961, she had a one-person show at the legendary AG Gallery in New York of her *Instruction Paintings*. Later that year, she performed a solo concert at Carnegie Recital Hall of revolutionary works involving movement, sound, and voice. In 1962, she returned to Tokyo, where she extended her New York performance and exhibited her *Instructions for Paintings* at the Sogetsu Art Center. In 1964 Yoko Ono performed *Cut Piece* in Kyoto and Tokyo, and published her conceptual art book, *Grapefruit*. In 1965 and 1966, she performed a second concert at Carnegie Recital Hall, participated in the Perpetual Fluxus Festival, exhibited *The Stone* at the Judson Gallery, and made the first version of *Film No. 4 (Bottoms)*, among numerous other works. In the summer of 1966, she was invited to take part in the Destruction in Art Symposium in London. She held one-person exhibitions at the Indica Gallery as well as at Lisson Gallery in the following year. During this period, she also performed a number of concerts throughout England. In 1969, together with John Lennon, she realized *Bed-In*, and the worldwide *War Is Over! (if you want it)* campaign for peace.

Ono has made a number of films, including *Fly* and "RAPE." She has also made many records, including *Fly*, *Approximately Infinite Universe*, and *Rising*. She has had numerous exhibitions in museums, including traveling exhibitions organized by the Museum of Modern Art Oxford and the Japan Society in New York. In 2007, she created *IMAGINE PEACE TOWER* on Viðey Island in Iceland. In 2009, she exhibited *ANTON'S MEMORY* at the Bevilacqua Foundation in Venice, and received the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement from the Venice Biennale. In 2008, she presented *touch me*, a solo exhibition of interactive works at Galerie Lelong & Co. in New York. In July 2011, Ono was honored with the prestigious 8th Hiroshima Art Prize for her dedicated peace activism, and opened the one-person exhibition *THE ROAD OF HOPE* at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art. Also in 2011, she presented her second solo exhibition at Galerie Lelong in New York, *UNCURSED*. In 2013, a major survey of the artist's work was exhibited for the first time in Australia at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney. In 2015, Ono presented a double exhibition, *THE RIVERBED*, at Galerie Lelong, New York and Andrea Rosen Gallery, as well as *Yoko Ono: One Woman Show 1960-1971* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, which reinforced her influence as one of the most important cultural change agents. In 2016, Ono presented *Refugee Boat*, a re-imagining of her 1960 work *Add Color* in response to the global refugee crisis. Major recent exhibitions include *YOKO ONO: THIS ROOM MOVES AT THE SAME SPEED AS THE CLOUDS*, Kunsthaus Zurich, Switzerland; *YOKO ONO: THE LEARNING GARDEN OF FREEDOM*, Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal; *YOKO ONO: FROM MY WINDOW* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; *YOKO ONO: Lumière de L'aube*, MAC Lyon, Lyon; and *Yoko Ono: Dream Come True*, MALBA, Buenos Aires.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1933, Yoko Ono lives and works in New York City.