

PRESS RELEASE

Lodha UK in partnership with Modus Operandi and Eric Parry Architects unveils new public artwork by Alison Wilding for No.1 Grosvenor Square, W1K 4AB

Artist: Alison Wilding

Swarm, 2023

Curated by Modus Operandi

'Swarm' is unveiled on 19th July 2023 and will make a significant artistic contribution to the local streetscape, bringing the work of one of the UK's leading sculptors to Mayfair



Swarm, by Alison Wilding, 2023. Image credit: Todd Sutherland

Lodha UK and Modus Operandi are proud to present a new public artwork by Alison Wilding as part of its development No.1 Grosvenor Square, London, designed by Eric Parry Architects. Curated by Modus Operandi, the relief sculpture *Swarm* has been integrated into the architecture of the newly refurbished building, set within the Grosvenor Street facade. The sculpture forms a rich contribution both to Lodha UK's landmark development and to Westminster City Council's programme of public art.

Swarm

Wilding's sculpture comprises two main interrelated elements: a gilded steel openwork 'screen' overlaying three curvilinear forms, the whole work occupying a blank window niche in the facade. The sculpture can be read as an abstract artwork, yet the screen is inspired by birds swarming in flight, while the curvilinear elements reference the oval plan of Grosvenor Square nearby.

Swarm resists fixed interpretations, offering different readings over time; it aims to be a classic work of art that withstands fashion - a contemporary sculpture for now and decades to come.

Alison Wilding says of her proposal for Swarm:

"Looking out of a window, and then attempting to describe the outline of a bird in flight I manipulated some thin brass wires to form a shape that alluded to a bird, a leaf, or a fish. Twenty-three of these shapes form a screen or veil, an upward swarm - diminishing in size as they ascend the window niche, revealing unexpected spaces between each motif.

Maps of Mayfair identify the garden design of Grosvenor Square as an elliptical shape. After drawing an ellipse, I divided it into three sections, each with a slightly different metallic finish, and to be inserted into the background of the window niche - thus bringing the garden into the building."

Blandine de Navacelle, Creative Director at Lodha UK says: *"Alison Wilding is one of Britain's foremost sculptors and artists. Lodha UK is excited to bring her work to Mayfair as a public art commission to be permanently displayed on No.1 Grosvenor Square's southern façade. Her captivating piece was chosen for its subtle references to Grosvenor Square and the natural world. The motif of birds in flights evokes the passing of the seasons and encourages a moment of quiet contemplation, contrasting with the otherwise animated nature of Grosvenor Street and Mayfair."*

Swarm by Alison Wilding joins other notable public artworks in the area including *Portcullis Gates* by Wendy Ramshaw at 33 Davies Street, a water feature entitled *Silence* by Tadao Ando in front of the Connaught Hotel, and a mosaic soffit artwork by Antoni Malinowski on Maddox Street. Alison Wilding's drinking fountain *Herm*, Rathbone Place W1 was commissioned in 2018.

For further details on the commission please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ARTIST

Alison Wilding RA OBE

Wilding lives and works in London. Born in Blackburn, Wilding studied at Nottingham College of Art, Ravensbourne College of Art and the Royal College of Art. She rose to prominence in the 1980s as part of the New British Sculpture, a group that included Richard Deacon, Tony Cragg and Anish Kapoor and was known for combining traditional and new industrial materials with both figurative and abstract imagery.

In 2018 she was appointed Eranda Professor of Drawing at the Royal Academy Schools. Solo exhibitions include De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea (2018); Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (2013, 2018); Duveen Galleries, Tate Britain, London (2013); Museum of Modern Art, New York (1987); and Serpentine Gallery, London (1985). Her public art commissions include *Migrant* at Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, and *Still Water*, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire.

Wilding was awarded a Henry Moore Fellowship at The British School at Rome in 1989. She was elected a Royal Academician in 1999 and in 2019 was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to art. Wilding is represented by Karsten Schubert London.

COMMISSIONER

Lodha UK

Lodha UK is one of London's most active prime residential property developers with £1.9bn of properties under development or completed. With an established and influential presence in the global property market, Lodha UK's projects include No.1 Grosvenor Square, Lincoln Square and Holland Park Gate (Kensington Odeon). Lodha UK seeks to create the most desirable places to live and work through a combination of outstanding design and impeccable service.

ARCHITECT

Eric Parry Architects

Eric Parry Architects design and create high-quality, people-focused, sustainable buildings that enhance their surroundings. We listen closely to our clients' ambitions and needs and collaborate to meet every project's particular challenges with our most creative and imaginative responses. Architecture should engage with its context and interact with its surroundings to create delight, enjoyment, and well-being for its inhabitants.

CURATOR

Modus Operandi

Modus Operandi is an independent agency for public art. It aims to deliver excellent art integral to architecture and the public realm, matching the vision of artists to clients, publics and places. Modus Operandi curates and produces permanent and temporary commissions, collaborations and interventions.

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FABRICATOR

Benson Sedgwick Engineering

with

Other People's Sculpture

Installation: Artful Logistics