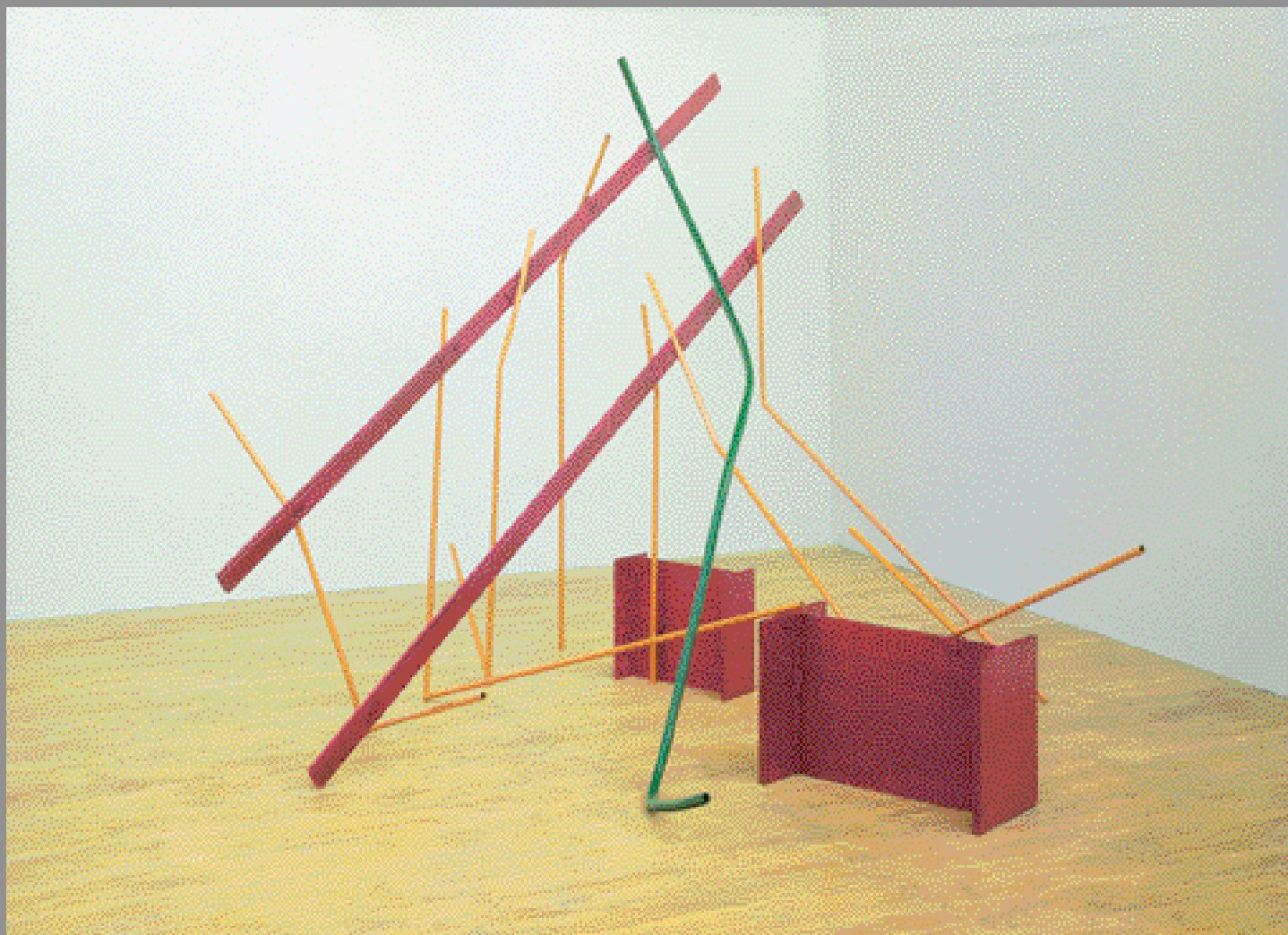


# MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS D'ANGERS

24 MAY - 21 SEPTEMBER 2008



PRESS RELEASE

## A N T H O N Y C A R O

OPENING HOURS:  
DAILY 10:00-18:30  
ADMISSION: 4€/ 3€  
INFORMATION/BOOKINGS:  
0033 (0)2 41 05 38 38



# ANTHONY CARO

24 May - 21 September 2008

## Musée des Beaux-Arts, Angers

From 24 May to 21 September 2008 the Musée des Beaux-arts will be exhibiting a retrospective of Anthony Caro, (b. 1924, New Malden, Surrey), one of the great masters of abstract sculpture. Following Calais in 1990 and Angers in 1996, Patrick Le Nouène, chief curator at the Musées d'Angers and a Caro specialist, is organizing the most comprehensive of the three French exhibitions to date. The Musée des Beaux-Arts is presenting eighteen important works, which will show highlights of the sculptor's development from 1960 to 2006.

Caro's international recognition is extensive - winner of Japan's Praemium Imperiale, awarded the Order of the Merit by the Queen of England, and holder of many honorary doctorates from both English and international universities. He has been, and continues to be, a decisive influence on younger members of the contemporary sculpture scene such as Richard Long, Bill Woodrow, Barry Flanagan and others.

During a visit to the United States in 1959, he met David Smith and Kenneth Noland, and was fascinated by the daring attitude of these Americans, by their approach to techniques like welding and assemblage and use of industrial materials like iron and steel. His work with Henry Moore, whose assistant he was from 1951-53, had already prepared him for these experiments.

Gradually abandoning the traditional modelling/casting method of his early years, he turned towards the welding and assembling of prefabricated iron and steel components, such as 'I' beams and other shaped elements. To begin with he often painted these constructions, using colour to help modify the viewer's perception of their forms in space.

His early career centred largely on the UK and the United States, but latterly he has become increasingly recognised in Europe and Japan. His work has been shown in many of the leading museums: MoMA in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, the Tate Gallery in London, etc.

Recognition of his sculpture was slower to come in France, even though he won the Sculpture Prize at the very first Paris Biennial in 1959, and it was only after 1990 that he was given solo exhibitions by the museums of Calais and Angers. Most recently the Musée Rodin in Paris showed his After Olympia sculpture accompanied by works of Rodin.

Caro is currently completing the final stages of a public commission comprising a monumental group of sculptures for the restored choir in the church at Bourbourg - near Gravelines, Dunkirk and Calais - which partially burnt down in 1940 after the crash of a Royal Air Force plane on the church roof. This major work will mark the creation of a centre for sacred art whose international standing will make it comparable with the Matisse chapel in Vence and a new force for the development of the Flandres Maritimes region.

Three other museums will also be celebrating the inauguration of this major work in October 2008 with further exhibitions of Caro's oeuvre: the Musée des Beaux-arts in Calais, which specialises in British sculpture; the LAAC in Dunkirk, where the emphasis is on the art of the 1960-1980s; and the Drawings and Original Prints Museum in Gravelines, a focal point for works on paper.

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Opening hours: daily 10:00-18:30

Admission: 4 €/3 €

Information/Bookings:

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