



Heilbronn, January 2, 2017

## Press Release

### **2017 Ernst Franz Vogelmann prize to go to Richard Deacon**

**British sculptor Richard Deacon has been awarded the 2017 Ernst Franz Vogelmann Prize for Sculpture. The award, which comes with €30,000 of prize money, has been made in recognition of Deacon's position as one of the leading exponents of contemporary sculpture as well as one of the most inventive sculptors of his generation. The prize-winner also holds a solo show at Kunsthalle Vogelmann – this is scheduled for fall 2017. The award ceremony will form part of the exhibition.**

For more than four decades now, the work of this internationally renowned artist (born in Bangor, Wales, in 1949) has revolved around the classic, fundamental questions of sculpture. In virtuoso style Deacon's oeuvre takes as its subject matter the interplay of space and surface, the relationship between fullness and emptiness, bulk and lightness, restlessness and repose. Whether he uses wood, ceramics, stainless steel or plastic, the unusually multiplicity of shapes he comes up with or invents is as surprising as the methods of construction to which he has recourse. The results are dynamic, abstract configurations with a particularly sensual quality.

After training at the St. Martin's School of Art and the Royal College of Art in London Deacon taught for 10 years at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and held a chair in Sculpture at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf until his retirement in 2016. He lives and works in London.

The Ernst Franz Vogelmann Stiftung and Städtische Museen Heilbronn have been presenting this sculpture award jointly every three years since 2008. It recognizes artists whose work has been a major influence on contemporary sculpture. What is particular about the selection process here is its two stages: 10 experts from the fields of museums, aesthetics, art and art journalism nominate a maximum of 30 artists from whom an independent jury of specialists then selects the prizewinner. In 2008, the first year, the prize went to Swiss artist Roman Signer (born in 1938), in 2011 to Franz Erhard Walther (born in 1939) and in 2014 to Thomas Schütte (born in 1954).

Please feel free to contact Dr. Marc Gundel/Dr. Rita E. Täuber, Director of/Curator at Städtische Museen Heilbronn, if you have any questions on telephone number 07131/56 2295 or by e-mail to [museen-hn@stadt-heilbronn.de](mailto:museen-hn@stadt-heilbronn.de)

**// PLEASE NOTE:** We would be happy to supply you with a portrait of Richard Deacon and one photo of his work for reporting purposes. Please note that you may only use this pictorial material free of charge in connection with the above information and the following picture credits: **Richard Deacon (portrait photo: © Wolf de Haan and views of exhibitions: Langen Foundation, Neuss 2016 photo: © Werner J. Hannappel, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2017)**

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