

Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson is a Danish - Icelandic artist and designer. After studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine arts he founded the Studio Olafur Eliasson which brings together teams of crafts people, architects, researchers and historians.

Eliasson is known for producing large scale sculptures and installations however his work also includes photography, film, architecture and painting.

Olafur Eliasson's art explores perception, movement and embodied experience. His work often uses light, reproduction of natural phenomena such as waterfalls, and social issues to explore peoples relationship and reaction to what he terms 'cultivated means of reality production.'

Notable work includes [The Weather Project](#), which used yellow light to drain away all other colour from the Turbine Hall in the Tate Modern. This created an environmental experience where the viewers participated in the art.

Much of Eliasson's work is experiential, the viewer is encouraged to walk through the art, creating a novel experience where they are subject to an altered and cultivated reality.

In 2014 Eliasson installed blocks of glacial ice from Greenland in various cities around the world in his piece called [Ice Watch](#). The icebergs acted as a visual reminder of the impact of climate change on the environment. The icebergs were left to melt and people were confronted with their contribution to global climate change.



Olafur Eliasson
The Weather Project, 2003



Olafur Eliasson
Ice Watch, 2014

Ai Weiwei

Ai Weiwei is a Chinese contemporary artist whose work spans sculpture, installation, architecture, curation, photography and film. Much of his work explores social, political and cultural themes. He has been openly critical of the Chinese government, which led to him being detained for 'economic crimes' for 81 days without charge.

Weiwei's work often reflects his political activism and opposition, highlighting social and cultural impact. He explores the relationship between the individual, mass consumption and loss of individuality.

Notable work includes an installation at the Tate Modern called [Sunflower Seeds](#), which consisted of millions of handcrafted porcelain sunflower seeds, produced in a small scale workshop in the Chinese city of Jingdezhen. These handcrafted objects were then poured onto the floor of the turbine hall and visitors were invited to walk over them.

The destruction of the objects symbolises the destruction of craft making and its replacement by industrial techniques and the involvement of the audience makes them responsible for the destruction of the objects.

In Weiwei's piece [S.A.C.R.E.D](#) he depicts models of his incarceration routine. The work comprises of six boxes that invite the viewer to see different stages or events during his time in prison. They reveal the humiliation and suffering he underwent. The near lifesize sculptures depict the cell, Ai Weiwei and his guards during various activities including eating and using the bathroom.



Photo © Tate, London 2015 © Ai Weiwei.



Image courtesy of Ai Weiwei Studio © Ai Weiwei.

Christo and Jeanne Claude

Christo and Jeanne Claude were a husband and wife collaborative artistic partnership, who produce monumental and large scale sculptural work. Jeanne Claude passed away in 2009 but her husband, Christo still continues to work. Christo and Jeanne Claude work included wrapping or encasing buildings, monuments and natural sites in fabric or creating temporary structures from colourful oil barrels.

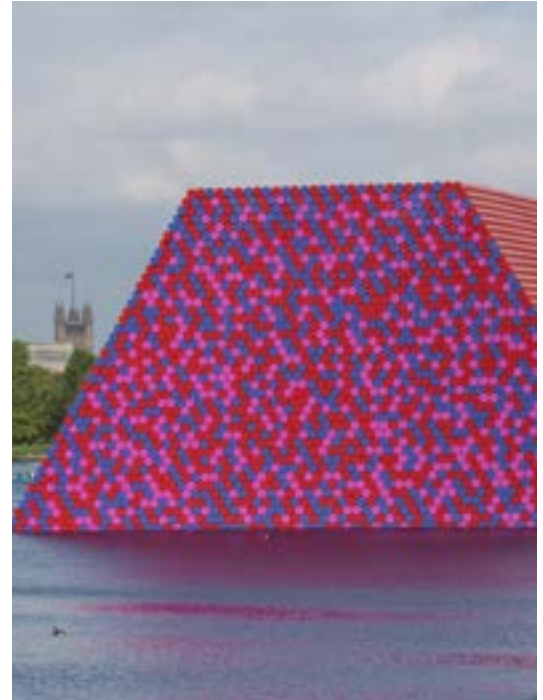
The artists always insisted that their pieces are simply about experiencing the artwork in the moment, in the context of its environment. Their work blends art, architecture and sculpture and when removed all materials are recycled and the site is returned to normal.

In 1983 Christo and Jeanne Claude installed a piece called [Surrounded Islands](#) in Biscayne Bay, Florida. They created floating rafts of fabric attached to octagonal, pink-painted booms and surrounded a series of islands in the bay. The piece was seen, approached and enjoyed by the public from the causeways, the land, the water and the air.

Another notable work [The London Mastaba](#), was installed on the Serpentine Lake in London in 2018. Based on the shapes of mastaba (a type of Egyptian tomb), the temporary sculpture was made of 7,506 painted barrels secured to scaffolding and anchored in the lake, was entirely self-funded and was free to view by all.



Photo by Wolfgang Volz © 1983
Christo



Christo
The London Mastaba 2018

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