

**WITHIN A REALM OF DISTANCE**  
**LAWRENCE WEINER AT BLENHEIM PALACE**  
**10 OCTOBER – 21 DECEMBER 2015**

**Press Preview: 9 October 2015**

Blenheim Art Foundation is delighted to announce a new exhibition by American artist and founding figure of Conceptual Art, Lawrence Weiner. Opening at Blenheim Palace on 10 October, the exhibition will showcase works conceived by the artist over the last several decades, in addition to significant, site-specific works, created especially for the Palace. Integrated throughout the ornately furnished Palace rooms, as well as the monumental exterior of the 18<sup>th</sup> century building, the exhibition is a continuation of the artist's practice, using language as a medium to create a multitude of sculptural forms for this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Lawrence Weiner is regarded as one of the most influential artists working today with a career spanning over fifty years. *Within a Realm of Distance*, conceived by the artist in close collaboration with Blenheim Art Foundation and co-curator Christian Gether, Director, ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, will feature a new and ambitious body of work presented in a building that dates back to 1704 and which famously became the birth place of British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill in 1874. Existing as an idea rather than a physical object, Weiner invites visitors to experience his work in tandem with the rich heritage of the Palace, using the building's historic collections as a support structure for his artistic vision.

*Within a Realm of Distance* is the second exhibition by Blenheim Art Foundation, a programme of contemporary art, which sees exhibitions presented at the Palace by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists, and follows the inaugural exhibition *Ai Weiwei at Blenheim Palace* (2014). The Foundation was established by Lord Edward Spencer-Churchill, whose family have resided at Blenheim Palace since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and whose brother is the 12th Duke of Marlborough. A dedicated collector of contemporary art, Lord Edward has long held the ambition to launch a contemporary art programme at Blenheim Palace, and realised Blenheim Art Foundation in 2014 with its Director, Michael Frahm.

**Michael Frahm, Director, Blenheim Art Foundation, said:**

*Lawrence Weiner is undoubtedly one of the most influential artists living today; his work and artistic philosophy have been profoundly relevant for more than 50 years. Known for his founding role in the Conceptual Art movement in the 1960's, his radical art practice continues to challenge the cultural status quo by exploring propositions about our relationships to objects and places. His work is subjective, accessible and functional and he is perhaps best described as a sculptor who has redefined the artist-viewer relationship using language as his primary medium. We are thrilled to collaborate with Lawrence on this extensive exhibition and take visitors on a journey through a simultaneous reality created within the structure of Blenheim Palace.*

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**Notes to Editors**

**About Lawrence Weiner**

Lawrence Weiner (b.1942) lives and works in West Village, New York and is considered a seminal figure in the founding of Conceptual Art. Weiner is one of the most radical artists to use language as his artistic medium and in 1969 Weiner cemented his mode of practice in a *Statement of Intent*, which, considered a pivotal moment at the beginning of the artistic movement, stipulated that his statements were the artwork whilst both their production and interpretation "rests with the receiver".

Recent and current solo exhibitions include: *Straight Down to Below: Lawrence Weiner* (part of Artist Rooms on Tour at Tate Modern and National Galleries of Scotland), Woodhorn Museum, Northumberland, Scotland, 25 October – 19 April 2015; *All In Due Course*, South London Gallery, London, England, 26 September – 23 November 2014; *The Grace of A Gesture* (curated by Thomas Kellein), Written Art Foundation in conjunction with the 55th Venice Biennale, Palazzo Bembo, Venice, Italy, 29 May – 4 November 2013; *As Far As The Eye Can See*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, USA, 15 November – 10 February 2008. He participated in documenta 5, 6, 7, and 13 (1972, 1977, 1982, 2012); the 36th, 41st, 50th and 55th Venice Biennales (1972, 1984, 2003, 2013); and the 27th Biennale de Sao Paulo (2006).

### **About Blenheim Art Foundation**

Blenheim Art Foundation launched on 1 October 2014 with the aim of establishing a new programme of contemporary art at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience contemporary art in the historic setting of the palace and its celebrated grounds, the not-for-profit foundation aims to give the greatest number of people access to the most innovative contemporary artists working today. [www.blenheimartfoundation.org.uk](http://www.blenheimartfoundation.org.uk)

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### **About Blenheim Palace**

Blenheim Palace is the home of the 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. This masterpiece of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque architecture boasts over 300 years of history and is a World Heritage Site, surrounded by more than 2000 acres of 'Capability Brown' landscaped Parkland and Formal Gardens.

Not only an iconic part of history, Blenheim Palace is a living and changing experience with a wealth of events, themed tours and exhibitions throughout the year. [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)