



Rob and Nick Carter · *Bronze Oak Grove*, 2017

9 patinated bronze tree stumps · each 19 × 72 × 50 in / 48 × 183 × 127 cm

Rob and Nick Carter

Bronze Oak Grove, 2017

1 June – 30 September 2017
North Flower Walk, Kensington Gardens

in association with The Royal Parks

Ben Brown Fine Arts is thrilled to announce the unveiling of *Bronze Oak Grove*, 2017, by internationally acclaimed artist duo, Rob and Nick Carter. Making its debut in the North Flower Walk in Kensington Gardens, this brilliantly executed, monumental installation consists of nine identical bronze tree stumps sited in a circular arrangement to represent an ancient oak grove.

Rob and Nick Carter are delighted to be among the very few artists to ever show contemporary sculpture in Kensington Gardens. With *Bronze Oak Grove* they have managed to create a uniquely immersive installation so realistic it defies belief – a feat of engineering using advanced 3D scanning, printing and centrifugal bronze casting.

Bronze Oak Grove is a welcoming, inclusive addition to the gardens this summer – an artwork you can walk around, sit on, interact with, a place to relax, think and play. The public are actively encouraged to engage with the work to bring it alive and participate in the creative process, including an exciting programme of events inspired by this exhibition throughout the summer.

For a number of years, the Carters have been inspired by the work of Jacob de Gheyn II (1565–1629), a draughtsman, painter and engraver who was a contemporary of Rembrandt during the Dutch golden age. De Gheyn's work marks the



Jacob de Gheyn II (1565–1629) · *The heavy trunk of an oak, sawn off horizontally above its roots* · 1600
brown ink on brown paper · 4½ × 9 in / 11.5 × 23 cm · Biblioteca Ambrosiana Collection, Milan

transition from late 16th-century Mannerism to the more naturalistic style of the early 17th century and he was recognized as a giant in his time, though little known today. The Carters' oak grove consists of nine identical tree stumps, fabricated in bronze, which take as their starting point De Gheyn's botanical drawing from 1600.

Throughout history the oak tree has been held in high esteem and is considered the most venerated tree in European culture. Dense forests of oak once covered most of Northern Europe and in those days the oak was held most sacred. Oak groves were used as pagan places of worship and the oak, used in a combination of rituals with certain spells, was considered a sure charm against witchery. People frequented the oak for its curative powers - its wood was used for building, its branches for fuel, its acorns for food and its leaves to promote healing. Famed for its endurance and longevity, it is synonymous with strength and steadfastness.

With their *Bronze Oak Grove*, the Carters emphasise the strong association between human civilisations and oaks, and create a contemporary space for gathering and dialogue. This will be brought to life through interactive 'Meet the Artists' sessions with the public, walking tours inspired by the exhibition and the Parks' natural heritage, storytelling events for families and sensory art workshops for local community groups. For more details, visit The Royal Parks' website, What's On page.

The best entrance to the park, for *Bronze Oak Grove*, is via Marlborough Gate which is opposite the Lancaster Gate Hotel. Entering the park via this gate, turn right and you will find *Bronze Oak Grove* after 200m.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Rob and Nick Carter are a husband and wife artistic duo who have been collaborating for over 20 years. Their work is housed in the collections of the Mauritshuis, The Hague; Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; David Roberts Foundation, London; Städel Museum, Frankfurt; and the Fondation Custodia, Paris. They have the distinction of being the only living artists to show a work at the Frick Museum, New York, NY.

The Carters have also executed a number of significant public and corporate commissions throughout London, including works for Cardinal Place in Victoria, 200 Aldersgate, 23 Savile Row and the Mildred Creek ward in Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Ben Brown Fine Arts, founded in 2004, is located on Brook's Mews in the heart of Mayfair. The gallery has prominently positioned itself on the contemporary art scene with the sole UK representation of artists such as Ron Arad, Tony Bevan, Ori Gersht, Candida Höfer, Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Gavin Turk, Not Vital and Heinz Mack. Also renowned for its strong expertise in 20th century Italian art, the gallery has been exhibiting the work of Lucio Fontana and Alighiero Boetti, amongst others, since its inception. In 2009 Ben Brown Fine Arts took their first step in an international expansion with the opening of an exhibition space in Hong Kong.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

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