

Parasol unit

PRESS RELEASE

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## Jannis Kounellis

28 November 2012 – 23 February 2013

(Preview: 27 November 2012, 6.30 – 9 p.m.)



*Untitled, 1967*, iron structure and coal, 28 x 155 x 125 cm, Courtesy of the artist and of Sprovieri, London, Photo: Stephen White; *Untitled, 1977*, iron spiral, miniature train, dimensions variable, Courtesy of the artist, Photo: Stephen White; Jannis Kounellis, Parasol unit installation view 2012, Photo Stephen White. All images © Jannis Kounellis

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is delighted to present a **solo exhibition** of works by painter, sculptor and performance artist **Jannis Kounellis** from 28 November 2012 to 23 February 2013.

Considered a protagonist of Arte Povera, an art movement that emerged in Italy during the 1960s, Kounellis embarked on his artistic career by creating some of the most radical art works of the time. Often combining the inanimate and animate, he boldly incorporated things such as propane torches, plants and animals as integral if not vital parts of his works. He also introduced the notion of performance within works of art, something that to this day continues to inspire artists around the world. In all these works Kounellis drew from his deep knowledge of and sensitivity to cultures of the past and his own heritage, in itself a spirited discussion between collective and personal experiences.

The exhibition at Parasol unit aims to consider Kounellis' early works from the 1960s, 70s and 80s and his own response to them from today's standpoint, which often culminates in a more recent and spontaneous work. This juxtaposition of works of art from the different decades should thus engender an arena for discussion. On show will be works, such as *Untitled (Carboniera)*, 1967; *Untitled (steel plate and braid)*, 1969, on loan from Centre George Pompidou, Musée national d'art; *Metamorphosis*, 1984, and *Untitled*, 1977, an electric train on steel plates installed around one of the pillars of the Parasol unit gallery.

Born in 1936 in Piraeus, Greece, Kounellis moved to Rome in 1956, where he still lives and works. In recent years, Kounellis has had numerous solo exhibitions internationally, including, among others, at

Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, 2007; National Centre for Contemporary Art, Moscow, 2011; Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2011; and Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens, 2012.

This exhibition has been kindly supported by:



HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE

## VISITOR INFORMATION

**Admission to all Parasol unit exhibitions is free**

**Gallery opening hours:** Monday by prior arrangement. Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

Christmas closure: 22 December 2012 – 1 January 2013 (inclusive)

### Directions

Tube: Old Street and Angel

Buses: 43, 205 and 214 via City Road

### Note to editors

Founded in December 2004, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is a registered educational and a non-profit institution that operates purely for public benefit. Every year the foundation organises four challenging and thought-provoking exhibitions of works by international contemporary artists working in various media, holds artistic projects and gives awards and exhibition possibility to graduating student from a UK art school. The foundation also engages with the public and the neighbouring community through a full programme of educational events. In its genuine mission to serve the public, the foundation does not bear the founder's name and its exhibitions do not derive from any particular private collections. Admission to all exhibitions at Parasol unit is free of charge. Thanks to this innovative model between private funding and public support one of London's most vibrant contemporary art spaces has come to exist and thrives.

For more information, please contact Anna Lehbruck on 020 7490 7373, at [anna@parasol-unit.org](mailto:anna@parasol-unit.org), or go to [www.parasol-unit.org](http://www.parasol-unit.org).

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