

Simon Hitchens to Present Monumental New Work at Frieze Sculpture 2025 in Regent's Park

Concurrent Exhibition *After Nature* at CLOSE Somerset Features Hitchens Alongside Richard Long, David Nash and more



Simon Hitchens, *Bearing Witness to Things Unseen*, 2022, Chichester Cathedral. Courtesy the artist and CLOSE LTD.

London, UK (July 25, 2025) — Today, CLOSE revealed that British artist Simon Hitchens will participate in this year's edition of Frieze Sculpture, the celebrated public art exhibition in London's Regent's Park, curated by **Fatoş Üstek** under the theme "In the Shadows." Running from September 17 to November 2, 2025, the exhibition brings together works that engage with darkness in its many forms, from inner landscapes and cultural symbolism to the unseen and the ambiguous.

Hitchens will present *Bearing Witness To Things Unseen*, a new iteration of a 2022 work from his acclaimed *Shadow* series. Installed in the historic English Gardens, the monumental sculpture, created especially for Frieze Sculpture, stands like an irregular, polished black portal, a void carved from space and matter itself. Upright and human in scale, it possesses a strong

anthropomorphic presence. As viewers approach, its western face reveals a deep, mirror-like polish that reflects their image within the silhouette of an absent rock's shadow.

Circling the form, the viewer encounters its dense black surface, scored with finely incised parallel ridges that run its length, as if the material has been extruded through time. At the eastern end, the work opens into a rugged, cave-like void: the negative cast of a long-absent boulder, rendered with geological precision. This is the rock's shadow, captured at the moment it was cast by the rising sun on the spring equinox, one of only two days each year when day and night are perfectly balanced.

The sculpture embodies a convergence of temporal scales, the deep time of geological formation, the celestial rhythm of equinoxes and the immediacy of human perception. It offers a meditation on presence and absence, transience and continuity, a reflection on the brief span of human life held against the enduring structures of the natural world.

London Sculpture Week: Public Programming

In a durational and performative extension of the work, Hitchens will stage a live drawing performance from dawn until dusk on 21 September, 2025 in the Park's English Gardens. Over the course of the day, Hitchens will trace the shadow of a locally sourced geological object, marking the autumn equinox. This live drawing will capture the passage of time and shifting light, eventually forming part of a new limited-edition work. Visitors will be able to view the drawing in progress and observe the artist's process throughout the day, punctuated by the public curator tour at 12pm, led by Fatoş Üstek. On the evening of the same day, Hitchens will also participate in "night walks," which are curator tours led by Üstek, at 8pm and 8:45pm.

In addition, on 28 September, Hitchens will undertake another durational drawing performance. On this occasion, however, visitors will be invited to take part and contribute to a collaborative artwork. Using Simon Hitchens' pen, participants of all ages will be encouraged to add to a collective drawing inspired by his sculpture and the themes of light, time and shadow.

Both events are part of London Sculpture Week, a citywide celebration of art in the outdoors with tours, workshops and performances across London. Free and open to all, running from September 20 to 28, 2025.

***After Nature*, a group exhibition curated by Ben Tufnell**

Concurrent with his Frieze presentation, Hitchens will also exhibit in *After Nature*, a thematic group exhibition curated by Ben Tufnell, opening on 13 September and running through 25 October at CLOSE in Taunton, Somerset. *After Nature* brings together artists whose practices offer a timely exploration of how nature is being examined and reimagined in the twenty-first century. Alongside Hitchens, the exhibition will feature works by iconic land artists **Richard Long** and **David Nash**, as well as a new generation of emerging talent, including **Aimee Parrott**, **Nissa Nishikawa** and **Fred Sorrell**.

Hitchens' featured work, *Epoch - 07.41 Glatting Beacon 16.01* (2024), is a new piece from an ongoing series of durational drawings, tracing the outlines of the shadows cast by a rock throughout a single day. For the first time Hitchens presents both drawing and the rock, a piece of flint, creating a dynamic relationship between the two.

Together, these two presentations offer a rare opportunity to experience the full scope of Hitchens' practice, situated in two distinct yet deeply connected contexts across the UK.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

Katy Wickremesinghe: katy@ktwlondon.com

Charlotte Birkett: charlotte@ktwlondon.com | 07828 765 977

Notes to Editors'

London Sculpture Week Programming

As part of London Sculpture Week, Simon Hitchens will take part in a series of public events in Regent's Park's English Gardens:

September 21

- **12:00pm:** Live Drawing Performance – Hitchens will trace the shadow of a geological object throughout the day, marking the autumn equinox.
- **8:00pm & 8:45pm:** Night Walks – Curated tours led by Fatoş Üstek, featuring insights into Hitchens' work and the exhibition.

September 28

- Live Participatory Drawing Performance– A family-friendly drawing session inviting visitors of all ages to contribute to a collaborative artwork inspired by Hitchens' sculpture and the themes of light, time and shadow.

Simon Hitchens graduated in Fine Art from the University of the West of England in 1990 and his work has been exhibited around the world since. He frequently exhibits in solo and group exhibitions, undertaking private commissions and numerous large-scale public commissions. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Sculptors in 1998, is an RWA Academician, the grandson of Ivon Hitchens and is the fourth generation of artists in his family.

Rock is the conceptual focus of his work and typically the material backbone within it. His work questions differences between animate and inanimate, more specifically rock and flesh, mountain and body; exploring themes of time and transience and the nature of being. His latest commission was a technically challenging 5.5m cast of a boulder in Qatar. His recent solo show *Parallels* at Somerset Rural Life Museum, explored the themes of time and transience, through sculpture, drawing and film.

CLOSE is a rural contemporary art gallery set in the grounds of Close House, Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset. Founded by curator and art advisor Freeny Yianni, RSA, who has worked

in the international art world for over 30 years, CLOSE runs a vibrant programme of exhibitions as well as displaying a growing permanent collection. CLOSE represents the estates of the late Grenville Davey and Jane Harris (with Partner with Pru O'Day) as well as a roster of international artists. CLOSE CURATES presents exhibitions and outstanding projects off site, in collaboration with organisations and institutions. www.close ltd.com