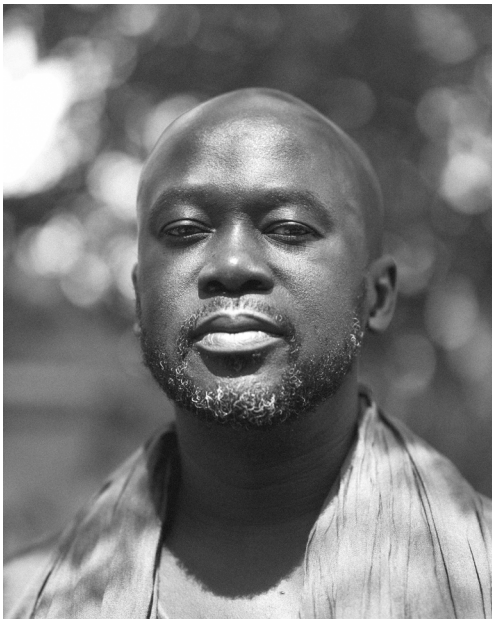


Sir David Adjaye and Cai Guo-Qiang to Receive 2020 Isamu Noguchi Award

Award to be presented in a virtual celebration as part of
The Noguchi Museum's annual benefit on November 16, 2020



Sir David Adjaye OBE. Photo: Chris Schwagga



Cai Guo-Qiang. Photo: Lin Yi, courtesy Cai Studio

WHAT

New York, NY (September 14, 2020) – The Noguchi Museum will present the 2020 Isamu Noguchi Award to architect Sir David Adjaye OBE and artist Cai Guo-Qiang in a virtual celebration on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 8 pm EST. Previously planned for May 19, 2020, the Museum's annual benefit and Isamu Noguchi Award presentation was postponed due to the pandemic. In its seventh year, the Isamu Noguchi Award is conferred on individuals who share Noguchi's spirit of innovation, global consciousness, and commitment to Eastern and Western cultural exchange. noguchi.org/award

WHO

Widely recognized as one of the leading architects of his generation, Ghanaian-British architect **Sir David Adjaye OBE** has received international acclaim for his impact on the field. Adjaye, who was born in Tanzania to Ghanaian parents in 1966, cites influences ranging from contemporary art, music, and science, to African art forms and the civic life of cities. In 2000, he founded Adjaye Associates, which today has projects spanning the globe. In 2017, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Adjaye is widely viewed as an architect with an artist's sensibility and vision. Also like Noguchi, he is committed to a multidisciplinary practice, with projects ranging from private houses, bespoke furniture collections, product design, exhibitions, and temporary pavilions to major arts centers, civic buildings, and master plans. In 2016, Adjaye opened his largest project to date, The National Museum of African American History & Culture, in Washington, D.C., which was named Cultural Event of the Year by *The New York Times*. Other completed works include: Ruby City, a new art center in San Antonio, Texas; The Webster, a new flagship retail space in Los Angeles; the Sugar Hill Mixed-Use Development, in Harlem, New York; two neighborhood libraries in Washington, D.C.; the Alara Concept store in Lagos, Nigeria; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, Colorado; the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art at the Hutchins Center at Harvard University; the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo; and the Idea Stores—two community libraries in London.

Ongoing projects include a new home for The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; 130 William, a high-rise residential tower in New York's financial district; the new Sydney Plaza, a public plaza, community building, and artwork in Sydney's Central Business District; The Abrahamic Family House, an interfaith complex in Abu Dhabi; the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London; and the National Cathedral of Ghana in Accra.

Born in 1957 in Quanzhou, China, artist **Cai Guo-Qiang** works in a variety of mediums and genres, and is especially well known for his innovative works that incorporate gunpowder and controlled explosions. From his early training in stage design to his exploration of multiple mediums not only for artistic expression, but also as a means to discuss contemporary social issues, Cai's involvement in diverse fields reflects the same multidisciplinary, boundary-defying spirit that Noguchi embraced.

Cai's solo exhibitions and projects have been presented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2006); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2008); Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (2017); Museo del Prado, Madrid (2017); Uffizi Galleries, Florence (2018); National Archaeological Museum of Naples (2019); National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2019); and Cleveland Museum of Art (2019), among other venues. His solo exhibition *Da Vincis do Povo* toured Brazil in 2013 and was the most visited exhibition by a living artist worldwide that year, attracting over one million visitors.

Cai has received numerous honors, including the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale (1999), the Hiroshima Art Prize (2007), and the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize (2009). In 2012, he won the prestigious Praemium Imperiale and was one of five artists to receive the first U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts for his outstanding commitment to international cultural exchange. Other honors include the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Award (2015), the Bonnefanten Award for Contemporary Art (BACA), and the Japan Foundation Award (both 2016).

Cai served as Director of Visual and Special Effects for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

WHEN

The Award will be presented in a virtual celebration as part of The Noguchi Museum's annual benefit, on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 8 pm EST. Hosted by Museum director Brett Littman, the evening's program will include conversations between Sir David Adjaye and writer, editor, and Noguchi Museum trustee Spencer Bailey; and Cai Guo-Qiang and Brett Littman. Event details: noguchi.org/benefit

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist's archives and the catalogue raisonné of his work, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator.

noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

Previous recipients of the Isamu Noguchi Award include: 2014—Lord Norman Foster and Hiroshi Sugimoto; 2015—Jasper Morrison and Yoshio Taniguchi; 2016—Tadao Ando and Elyn Zimmerman; 2017—John Pawson and Hiroshi Senju; 2018—Naoto Fukasawa and Edwina von Gal; and 2019 — Rei Kawakubo.

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