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Press Release

## Galerie Marguo Announces Public Presentation of Conrad Shawcross Sculpture at Jardin Arnaud Beltrame in Paris to Mark its Opening on October 19 2020



Paris—Galerie Marguo is delighted to announce an outdoor presentation of *Paradigm - B (Structural)*, 2019 by British artist, Conrad Shawcross, to celebrate the grand opening of the gallery in Paris's historical Le Marais district. The 4-metre sculpture in weathering steel will be installed in Jardin Arnaud Beltrame over the course of the autumn in front of the gallery.

This initiative is made in collaboration with the artist and Château La Coste, who included this work in *Escalations*, a solo exhibition by Shawcross in the summer of 2020. Given the context of the pandemic, it feels more important now than ever to celebrate contemporary arts and culture beyond the gallery space, in public realm of the city. Furthermore, *Paradigm - B (Structural)* itself is a particularly relevant work to present during this unprecedented time.

The title of the work *Paradigm* refers to the idea of a paradigm shift, identified by the American physicist and philosopher Thomas Kuhn—a leap that jolts us forward and collapses pre-existing notions of what is true.

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*Paradigm - B (Structural)* is composed of tetrahedrons, a form with geometric and philosophical potential that has long fascinated Shawcross. Unlike other shapes such as the cube, a tetrahedron cannot tessellate with itself, therefore it cannot ever completely fill a space. Ascending and twisting into a variety of sequences that seem to defy logic, *Paradigm- B (structural)* is a very timely artwork to be shown in Paris during this period.

Conrad Shawcross said: "I was first drawn to the tetrahedron when I discovered the ancient Greeks regarded it as the symbol for the basic unit of matter: the atom. Since then I've tried to harness it as my brick or basic unit exploring both the philosophical and geometric properties of the tetrahedron for nearly two decades yielding an array of what I call psycho-geometric sculptures. I'm thrilled to show this seminal piece of my practice in a new public space in Paris and hope it engages with the public the very question that has brought about the work."

Daniel Kennedy, Artist Director of Château La Coste, said: "We are excited to be jointly showing this important sculpture by Conrad Shawcross with Galerie Marguo on the occasion of the gallery's grand opening in Paris. This presentation is a natural continuation of Shawcross' solo exhibition that took place at Château La Coste this past summer, and we are glad that it has found a temporary home in the city of Paris during this period."

Vanessa Guo, Co-founder and Partner of Galerie Marguo, said: "Conrad's work challenges the very building blocks of our reality and pre-conceptions. It couldn't be more fitting to be presenting his *Paradigm* series to the Paris public during this unprecedented time of our lives. This work marks a series of new beginnings, the opening of Galerie Marguo in Paris, a path of recovery from the pandemic, and the unwavering perseverance of our collective spirits."

Galerie Marguo and Château La Coste would like to thank the city of Paris and Benoite Martine Lardy, Culture, Sport and Olympics Delegate for Paris City Hall, as well as Victoria Miro Gallery, London for their cooperation and support of this project. We would also like to note the outstanding bravery and heroism of Arnaud Beltrame, who sadly died in the line of duty in 2018 and whom the installation site of the sculpture is named after.

## About Galerie Marguo

Galerie Marguo is a contemporary art gallery in Paris co-founded by Vanessa Guo, formerly Director of Hauser & Wirth's activity in Asia, and Paris art dealer, Jean-Mathieu Martini, and launched in the fall of 2020. The program at Galerie Marguo will focus on emerging artists from around the globe with a strong Franco-Chinese element, stemming from Guo's experience building artist relationships in Asia and a desire to provide greater visibility to Asian artists in Europe. Exhibitions will be presented in a 1,200 sq ft space inside of a refurbished historical military complex on Rue des Minimes in the heart of the Marais district. Sited inside of a beautiful courtyard, Jardin Arnaud Beltrame, Galerie Marguo is only steps away from Place des Vosges and Musée Picasso, and in close proximity to The Centre Pompidou and other international galleries in an area known as the center of Parisian arts and culture.

## About Château La Coste

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Château La Coste is a vineyard located in south of France where wine, art & architecture live in harmony. Artists and architects were invited to visit the Domain and discover the beauty of Provence. In turn, they were encouraged to choose a place in the landscape that spoke directly to them and were given the freedom to create a work that would live there. Château La Coste will continue to evolve as new projects and installations are developed.

## About the Artist

Imbued with an appearance of scientific rationality, Conrad Shawcross' RA (b. 1977) sculptures explore subjects that lie on the borders of geometry and philosophy, physics and metaphysics. Inspired by different technologies, the artist's structures may retain in appearance the authority of machines - yet, they remain enigmatic, filled with paradox and wonder. Some have an absurdist melancholy feel, while others tend to the sublime, substituting the purely functional for phenomenological experience. In his work, Shawcross has paid tribute to some of the great pioneers and analysts and considered specific moments or figures from the past. In the end, Shawcross' art questions what we take for granted and encourages us to see beyond the physical.

Shawcross has completed a number of major public commissions across the world, including *Paradigm* outside the Francis Crick Institute in London and the 18-metre tall Exploded Paradigm inside the atrium of the Comcast Technology Center in Philadelphia. He has exhibited at institutions across the world, including Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, the Museum of Old and New Art in Tasmania, Wadsworth Atheneum in Connecticut, USA, the National Gallery in London, and ARTMIA in Beijing. He is represented by Victoria Miro in London and Tucci Russo in Italy.

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1. Exterior of Galerie Marguo. Courtesy Galerie Marguo
2. Conrad Shawcross, *Paradigm - B (Structural)*, 2019, weathering steel, 402.2 x 120.3 x 133.7 cm. © Conrad Shawcross. Courtesy The Artist and Château La Coste