

## **TRACEY EMIN GIFTS MAJOR SCULPTURE AS VISITORS HAVE LAST CHANCE TO SEE RECORD-BREAKING EXHIBITION**

Tracey Emin, whose retrospective exhibition *Tracey Emin: 20 Years* closes at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, has generously donated a major sculpture to the Gallery. *Roman Standard* (2005) comprises a bronze pole 13-foot tall, surmounted by a little bird, cast in bronze. Part of the exhibition, it has been erected in the grounds of the Gallery, close to the entrance. The work can be seen as a kind of self-portrait: the bird is small and vulnerable, but at the same time it is visible from a distance and commands attention.

Tracey Emin commented: ‘On the final days of installing my show, *20 Years* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, I had very strong, mixed emotional feelings. Complete happiness and enjoyment of not just installing my show but being really happy in Edinburgh and enjoying every moment of the fantastic hospitality that was shown to me. I also had feelings of sadness, of counting the seconds and hours knowing that I would soon be leaving. Patrick Elliott, the curator had seemed ecstatically happy about the positioning of my sculpture, *Roman Standard*. He said it looked like it had always been there and that’s the seed that was sown. I thought to myself that whilst it hadn’t always been there, why shouldn’t it stay there? The gift of *Roman Standard* is a gift to the Scottish National Galleries and to Edinburgh to say thank you.’

Simon Groom, Director of Modern and Contemporary Art said: ‘We are thrilled to have such a major work in the collection. We already own a number of monoprint drawings by Tracey, but we have nothing of this importance or scale. It was wonderful having Tracey here for the installation of the exhibition, and she returned on a number of occasions to give public talks, which were both popular and enlightening. This is not only a great work and a significant addition to the collection, but it also acts as a reminder of her time here’.

*Tracey Emin: 20 Years* has attracted over 40,000 visitors, breaking the Gallery of Modern Art's record for an exhibition of work by a living artist.

For further information please contact the National Galleries of Scotland Press Office on 0131 624 6325/6247/6332 or [pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org](mailto:pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org).

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