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Press Release: 13 March 2013

ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION PRESENTS

Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-1979

A touring exhibition from the Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre

Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-1979 launches at Southampton City Art Gallery on 9 May, open to the public 10 May to 4 August 2013 and will tour the UK until 15 June 2014.

Featuring the work of 24 artists and artist groups, it is the most comprehensive exhibition of British Land art to date. **Uncommon Ground** questions how landscape and nature came to be key concerns of Conceptual art in Britain and explores the unique characteristics of the way Land art developed here.

Drawn primarily from the Arts Council Collection and supplemented by loans from other major UK collections as well as the artists themselves, this exhibition takes a fresh look at British art between the mid-1960s and late-1970s and includes some of the most important artists working in the UK in that period including Tony Cragg, Antony Gormley, Hamish Fulton, Richard Long, Anthony McCall and David Nash.

Curated by Nicholas Alfrey, (University of Nottingham) Joy Sleeman, (Slade School of Art, University of London) and Ben Tufnell, (Writer and Curator), **Uncommon Ground** examines the meaning Land art might have in a British context, where landscape has long been a recognised element of national art and identity.

The exhibition reveals the distinct forms that Land art took here in Britain: predominantly Conceptual and ephemeral, hand-made and organic. The key strategies developed in the UK included the photographic documentation of actions, the positioning of walking and travelling as creative acts, combined with an exploration of locality and a keen awareness of rural traditions and contexts. At the same time, the term 'landscape' was also being questioned and transformed by artists, provoking a renewed interest in older forms of landscape art, and in historic landscapes. From being seen as something old-fashioned and redundant, landscape became the ground of radical artistic experiment.

The exhibition launches at Southampton City Art Gallery 10 May to 4 August 2013 and will tour to The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (28 September 2013 to 5 January 2014) where it will be the first Land art exhibition to go to Wales, Mead Gallery, University of Warwick (18 January to 8 March 2014) and Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (5 April to 15 June 2014).

Artists featured in **Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-1979**

Roger Ackling, Keith Arnatt, Boyle Family, Thomas Joshua Cooper, Tony Cragg, Jan Dibbets, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Barry Flanagan, Hamish Fulton, Andy Goldsworthy, Antony Gormley, Susan Hiller, John Hilliard, Derek Jarman, David Lamelas, John Latham, Richard Long, Roelof Louw, Anthony McCall, Bruce McLean, Garry Fabian Miller, David Nash, Roger Palmer, David Tremlett.

A new publication accompanies the exhibition with texts by Nicholas Alfrey, Joy Sleeman and Ben Tufnell.

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For further media information, interview requests and images please contact Catharine Braithwaite on 07947 644 110, cat@we-r-lethal.com

Notes to editors:

Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain 1966-1979 Tour

Southampton City Art Gallery 10 May – 4 August 2013

The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff 28 September 2013 – 5 January 2014

Mead Gallery, University of Warwick 18 January – 8 March 2014

Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park March 5 April – 15 June 2014

For more information about upcoming venues for this exhibition please check:

www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk or <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/hayward-gallery-and-visual-arts/hayward-touring/future>

The Arts Council Collection is one of Britain's foremost national collections of post-war British Art. As a collection 'without walls', it has no permanent gallery; it can be seen on long term loan to museums, galleries, schools, hospitals, colleges and charitable associations and in touring exhibitions and displays at home and abroad. It is also, importantly, the most widely circulated and easily accessible collection of its kind, with nearly 8000 works available for loan. It is run by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England.

Established in 1946 to promote and enrich knowledge of contemporary art, the Collection continues to acquire works by artists, many at an early stage of their career, living and working in Britain and to foster the widest possible access to modern and contemporary across the UK. It includes work by Francis Bacon, Tracey Emin, Lucian Freud, Antony Gormley, Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney, Anish Kapoor, Henry Moore, Bridget Riley and Wolfgang Tillmans.

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection.

The Hayward Gallery at Southbank Centre plays a key role in creating imaginative, high profile exhibitions in London and within the UK through Hayward Touring. The touring programme and the Arts Council Collection are managed by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England, and add to the organisation's distinctive national remit.