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Elwick-Bates, Emma. “A Turner Prize Winner Brings Blue Sky Thinking to the British Countryside.”  
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# VOGUE



Richard Long, *Full Moon Circle*, 2017 Photo: Courtesy of Houghton Hall and © Pete Huggins

Britain has one of the most reliably beautiful countrysides of anywhere in the world, and the venerable vistas of Houghton Hall—set within in 4,000 acres of Norfolk greenery—are unequivocally some of the most magnificent. Contemporary art and glamour are no strangers to the house that was built by Britain’s first Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole: The current residents, David George Philip Cholmondeley (the seventh Marquess of Cholmondeley) and his wife Rose Hanbury (the Marchioness of Cholmondeley), have ignited Houghton with contemporary verve—including a magical James Turrell exhibition projected onto the Palladian grandeur of the façade and grounds, and have even opened their doors to Amanda Seyfried, Anna Ewers, and Taylor Hill, whose reveries on the estate were captured by Alasdair McLellan for Miu Miu’s Fall 2016 campaign.

Now, the vanguard of conceptual land art Richard Long is in residence, with “Earth Sky: Richard Long at Houghton,” which opens this Sunday. The seven-piece show will be the 71-year old British artist’s largest show since his 2009 Tate retrospective, and the immersive quality of the new installations play symphonically with Long’s lifelong engagement with nature. “Tides, weather, and places offered me far more potential to engage with the world” says Long, whose penchant for bracing walks in the wilderness is translated at Houghton into a circle of 16 colossal tree stumps, roots facing cosmically towards the sky (*White Deer Circle*, 2016). “I have a sense of well-being by being out in the wilderness. It’s a kind of

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therapy. It's healing." *Wilderness Dreaming* (2017) creates an intriguing spiral made of slate that swirls amidst the trees and grounds like a fractured looking glass. Equally dramatic, inside Houghton's Stone Hall glimmers a bijoux-like explosion of Norfolk flint and Cornish slate, entitled *North South East West* (2017).



Richard Long, *North South East West*, 2017, Slate and flint circle in the Stone Hall Photo: Courtesy of Houghton Hall and © Pete Huggins



Richard Long, *Wilderness Dreaming*, 2017, A spiral of Cornish slate Photo: Courtesy of Houghton Hall and © Pete Huggins

The exhibit complements and completes the enchanting collision of worlds at Houghton, where the permanent Long sculpture, *Full Moon Circle*, joined its cultural landscape in 2003. "My hope is that in time Houghton will become a must-see destination for those interested in contemporary art and sculpture," enthuses the Marquess of Cholmondeley. So, if European travels are on your agenda, this impressive art stop (just over three hours from London) makes the perfect escape for ramblers and blue sky thinkers this summer.

*EARTH SKY: Richard Long at Houghton Hall April 30 - October 26, 2017*