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Press Release

For Immediate Release: 2 October 2024



Katherine Gili, *Aqui*, 1981. Forged mild steel, varnished, waxed, 36x49x45cm. Photo by Orlando Gili.

Language of the Physical: Katherine Gili Sculpture

8 November 2024 – 9 March 2025

Soane Gallery, Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ

Ealing, London: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming exhibition *Language of the Physical: Katherine Gili Sculpture*, opening on 8 November 2024. This exhibition brings together a range of sculptures by Katherine Gili, spanning four decades from 1980 to 2022. Gili's practice is rooted in a deeply physical engagement with materials—particularly steel, heavy-duty paper, and paper clay—and her work has steadily gained recognition in recent years. Most notably, her sculpture *Vertical IV* (1975) was recently displayed for the first time at Tate Britain as part of their ongoing collection display, *Modern and Contemporary British Art (1965–1980)*, highlighting Gili's significant contribution to British sculpture.

Katherine Gili has been making sculpture for over fifty years but has only recently received wider public visibility. Gili was a student of Anthony Caro, one of the leading figures of 20th-century

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sculpture and the subject of Pitzhanger's summer exhibition last year. Her work marks a shift from the industrial aesthetic of steel sculpture to an increasingly sensual and subjective approach to abstract form. Alongside the Tate, Gili's sculptures are held in prominent collections, including Arts Council and Henry Moore Institute.

This exhibition highlights Gili's exploration of the expressive potential of materials through the physical act of making. Working with steel, bronze, and paper clay, Gili challenges the boundaries of form and construction. Her early paper-based works, sometimes cast into bronze, reflect her experimental approach, while her steel sculptures, shaped through cutting and forging, embody her fascination with the transformative nature of material. Her recent work has shifted towards a more personal engagement with the human body as a source of inspiration.

Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, said: "We are excited to host this exhibition at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery and a timely reassessment of Katherine Gili's work. Her experiments with different materials feel well rooted at Pitzhanger where Sir John Soane gave such thought to the materials he employed. This exhibition is an opportunity to celebrate Gili's significant contribution to the field of modern British sculpture."

Katherine Gili said: "Sir John Soane was an avid collector of sculpture and had a keen eye for its space-enhancing possibilities and its counterpoint to his own extraordinary architectural creation. I am delighted to have been asked to show at Pitzhanger Manor, with its expansive and intimate spaces with differing qualities of light. It is a natural home for sculpture."

Language of the Physical: Katherine Gili Sculpture runs concurrently alongside Pitzhanger's other exhibitions: *Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences*; *William Hogarth: The Satirist* and *Antoni Malinowski and Hélène Binet: Pigments and Photons*.

For more information, visit pitzhanger.org.uk/katherine-gili

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For all media enquiries, please contact aston.law@pitzhanger.org.uk
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To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at pitzhanger.org.uk/newsletter

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Listing Information

Language of the Physical: Katherine Gili Sculpture

Date: 8 November 2024 – 9 March 2025

Artist

Katherine Gili

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Address: Ealing Green, London W5 5EQ

8-minute walk from Ealing Broadway Station (Elizabeth, Central, District Lines & National Rail)



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust
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Charity Registration: 1152434 Company Registration: 08278049



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Opening hours

Wednesday to Sunday 10am–5pm, including Bank Holidays (First Thursday of the Month: 10am–8pm)

Christmas and New Year opening hours

23–26 December: Closed

27–29 December: 10am–5pm

30–31 December: Closed

1 January: 11am–4pm

2 January onwards: 10am–5pm

General Admission:

£12 Standard / £6 Students / FREE Under 16

FREE for Members

FREE for Ealing Borough residents every first Thursday of the month 5–8pm, and every Sunday 10am–noon

Notes to editors

About Katherine Gili

Katherine Gili graduated from Bath Academy of Art, Corsham in 1970 and St Martin's School of Art in 1973. She taught part-time, most notably at St Martin's and Norwich. Her work has been exhibited widely in the UK, including The Serpentine, Hayward, and Tate galleries and in New York and Madrid. She won the Jack Goldhill Award for Sculpture at the Royal Academy in 2013.

Her work is in the collections of Tate, The Arts Council Collection, Henry Moore Institute, Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre and Bradford Museums and Galleries, as well as in other public and private collections internationally.

About Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, built 1800–1804, is the historic country home of one of the most influential English architects, Sir John Soane. Pitzhanger's mission is to promote Sir John Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all. It celebrates Sir John Soane's genius and influence as a designer, juxtaposing his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions, and an extensive outreach and events programme. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to Soane's original design, with support from HLF, ACE, Ealing Council, and other generous donors.

About Sir John Soane

Sir John Soane (1753–1837) was one of Britain's most visionary architects, and one of the very few of his time to have come from a working-class background. His buildings are celebrated for their idiosyncratic take on the neoclassical style and mastery of natural light. Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800. He demolished most of the existing manor house apart from the Dance Wing and from 1800 to

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1804, designed and built a new house as his country estate sitting in 28 acres of parkland. The legacy of Soane's distinctive buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects, and designers.

Image Sheet

Please download high resolution images from [the Press Kit](#).



Katherine Gili in her studio, 2023. Photo by Orlando Gili.



Katherine Gili with *Vertical IV* (1975) at Tate Britain, 2024. Photo by Cameron Amiri.

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Front façade of Pitzhanger Manor. © Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery. Photo by Andy Stagg.