

## Press Release

5 December 1994

### Christmas Tree

14 December 1994 - 2 January 1995

Cathy de Monchaux has been invited to create the 1994 Tate Gallery Christmas Tree and Christmas Card. This is the seventh year that a tree has been commissioned from an artist for the Gallery. It will be placed, as before, in the Rotunda, under the dome near the front entrance. Artists previously involved have been Bill Woodrow (1988), Tim Head (1989), Lisa Milroy (1990), Boyd Webb (1991), Craigie Aitchison (1992) and Shirazeh Houshiary (1993).

Cathy de Monchaux is a London born artist who studied at Camberwell School of Art and Goldsmiths College, both in London. Since 1987 she has exhibited extensively in Britain and abroad. Her seductive and meticulously executed sculpture has been characterised by the use of sumptuous materials such as velvet, suede, silk ribbon, glass and leather, contrasted with ornate metallic fittings which hold them together.

The twenty foot high Christmas Tree will be entirely enclosed in canvas and blue velvet. Eight strips of canvas will be wound around the tree in a spiral with the velvet appearing in the gap between the strips. The edges of the strips will be held together at intervals by intricate rusted metal clasps in the form of hands. From the hands cords will twist down to the ground where they will be grasped by similar hands set in eight amorphous lumps placed in a circle around the tree.

The 1994 Christmas Tree and Card by Cathy de Monchaux are supported by the Patrons of New Art and Tate Gallery Publications with additional support from Clifton Nurseries Limited, JRF Panels Limited and Russell & Chapple Ltd. Established in 1982, the Patrons of New Art provide financial support towards acquisitions for the Tate Gallery's collection of contemporary art and in 1984 founded the Turner Prize.

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