

## Press Release

11 December 1995

### Christmas Tree

by Cornelia Parker

13 December 1995 – 4 January 1996

This year's Tate Gallery Christmas Tree decorations will be created by Cornelia Parker who has taken as her starting point the traditional idea of decorating a Christmas tree. Her aim is to evoke the spirit of plenty and Christmases past. The tree will be laden with dried fruit threaded on wires and there will be a lingering smell of brandy. The fruit represents both a winter store of energy and the potential ingredients for a Christmas pudding.

Cornelia Parker was born in Cheshire and studied at Gloucestershire College of Art and Design, Wolverhampton Polytechnic and Reading University. Since her first solo show in 1980 she has exhibited extensively in Britain and abroad. Recently she created a major installation at the Serpentine Gallery which included the sleeping figure of Tilda Swinton. Parker's installations and sculptures have been characterised by her use of familiar objects, often suspended from wires fixed to a ceiling. One of her main interests is in exploring how the significance of everyday objects may be transformed by a process, or by placing them in a new context. The materials she has worked with have been many and various - silver plate, a garden shed and its contents, money, lead, iron and dried fruit.

This is the eighth 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), Shirazeh Houshiary (1993) and Cathy de Monchaux (1994).

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