

THE PRINCESS ESTELLE CULTURAL FOUNDATION PRESENTS ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2024:

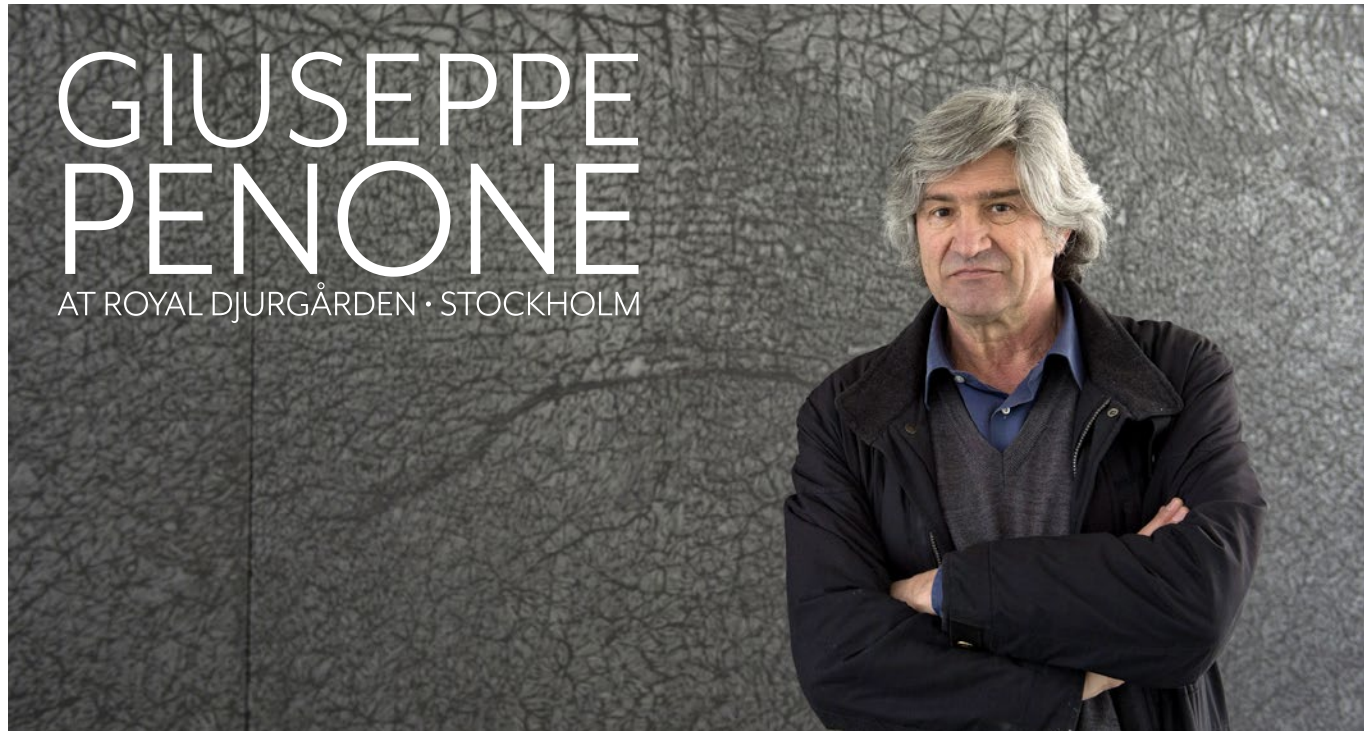


Photo: Luc Castiel

The Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation celebrates its five-year anniversary and will unveil the fifth permanent artwork in the sculpture park on Royal Djurgården in the summer of 2024. Giuseppe Penone, one of the most important artists of our time, has been selected to create a monumental, site-specific sculpture for the park. The sculpture will be inaugurated on 30 May 2024 and become part of a permanent collection that includes works by Alice Aycock, Elmgreen & Dragset, Yinka Shonibare CBE, and Charlotte Gyllenhammar.

Giuseppe Penone was born in 1947 in Garessio in northern Italy. He received his artistic breakthrough in the late 1960s as a key figure of the *Arte Povera* movement and has since had an influential career internationally. Already in 1970, Pontus Hultén, then director of Moderna Museet, acquired Penone's tree sculpture *Albero di 12 metri* for the museum's collection. This iconic work has since been included in several exhibitions at Moderna Museet in Stockholm and Malmö.

Through his sculptures, as well as works in other media, Penone has explored concepts such as time, humanity and nature, and his works highlight the interconnectedness of the world. He is often described as a master of materials, a sculptor with the ability to reveal what is invisible and make the impossible possible.

"It is a great honour to present a legendary artist like Giuseppe Penone in the Princess Estelle Sculpture Park. The work that he has created for Royal Djurgården is outstanding, unique, and absolutely magnificent," says Sara Sandström, Executive Director of PREKS.

The artistic council's motivation for the 2024 selection reads:

Over the past five decades, Giuseppe Penone has explored the relationship between humans and nature in his groundbreaking artistic practice. A recurring motif is the living, growing tree as it relates to the human body. In his sculptures, Penone uses natural elements to emphasize the materials' unique characteristics through simple gestures that draw our attention to the complex processes that surround us.

The acquisition of Giuseppe Penone's sculpture has been made possible through a generous donation by Birgitta and Conni Jonsson.

Inauguration: 30 May 2024

Place: Princess Estelle Sculpture Park at Royal Djurgården, Stockholm

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Giuseppe Penone's work has been exhibited internationally at institutions such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Rijksmuseum, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and the gardens of Versailles. He has participated in several editions of the Venice Biennale and Documenta. Penone's works are found in several leading art collections, including the Metropolitan Museum, MoMA, Centre Pompidou, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Tate Modern, Hamburger Bahnhof, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, Stedelijk Museum, and Moderna Museet, to name a few. Penone has received several prestigious awards, notably the *Praemium Imperiale International Arts Award* in 2014 and the *Rolf Schock Prize for the Visual Arts* by the Swedish Royal Academy of Arts. In 1989, he became the first foreign artist to be nominated for the *Turner Prize* and he was elected member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 2023.

PREVIOUS WORKS



Photo: Sebastiano Pellion di Persano

Ripetere il bosco (To Repeat the Forest), 1969–2022, wood



Photo: Archivio Penone

Idee di pietra (Ideas of Stone), 2003–2007, bronze, grey granite river stone



Photo: Archivio Penone

Anatomia (Anatomy), 2003–2007, white Carrara marble



Photo: Archivio Penone

Albero di 11 metri (11 Meter Tree), 1975, fir wood

ABOUT THE PRINCESS ESTELLE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation (PREKS) was founded in the autumn of 2019 at the initiative of the Crown Princess Couple with the mission to promote cultural activities in Sweden. There is a long-standing royal tradition in Sweden to support culture which is in line with a conviction that art and cultural activities are essential to an open, modern society. The Crown Princess Couple wishes to highlight this and demonstrate a long-term commitment through the establishment of PREKS. The initial focus has been on the development of a permanent sculpture park at Royal Djurgården in close collaboration with the Office of the Governor of the Royal Palaces and the Royal Djurgården Administration, as well as to offer educational programmes to make contemporary art accessible. The first four permanent artworks in the Princess Estelle Sculpture Park are by Alice Aycock, Elmgreen & Dragset, Yinka Shonibare CBE, and Charlotte Gyllenhammar.

The artists are selected by the Board of the Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation assisted by the artistic council consisting of **Richard Julin**, Artistic Director of Accelerator in Stockholm, **Ann-Sofi Noring**, Member of the board of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and former Deputy Director of Moderna Museet in Stockholm, and **Elisabeth Millqvist**, Director of Moderna Museet in Malmö and former Artistic and Executive Director of Wanås Konst.

The Board of the Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation consists of H.R.H. Prince Daniel, Elin Annwall, Lena Josefsson, Staffan Larsson, Janne Sirén, Lars Strannegård, and chairman Johan Ericsson. The Foundation's Executive Director is Sara Sandström. The Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation is financed by private donations.