ICA

Press release

Bruce Nauman *Days:* 19 June – 16 September 2012 (Press view: 18 June 2012)

The ICA is delighted to present the UK premiere of Bruce Nauman's 'Days', a sound installation consisting of a continuous stream of seven voices reciting the days of the week in random order. Fourteen flat panel speakers will be installed with one voice emanating from each pair of speakers as the visitor passes between them. The work invokes both the banality and the profundity of the passing of each day and invites reflection on how we measure, differentiate and commemorate time.

Nauman's work constantly tests rational systems of language, spatial and bodily encounters, duration and psychology through constructed environments. His pioneering work spans over five decades and encompasses a wide spectrum of media including sculpture, drawing, site-specific installation, sound pieces, neon, photography, film, video, performance and text/language.

Bruce Nauman is one of the most influential artists of our time and we're delighted to welcome the seminal work 'Days' to the UK. Nauman's work was first seen in Britain at the ICA in 1969 as part of the group exhibition "When Attitude Becomes Form", organised by Harald Szeeman. It is therefore a great pleasure to bring Nauman's art back into the building. Working with multimedia and sound since the mid-1960s, Nauman's continued influence on emerging artists is undeniable and I hope that SOUNDWORKS will celebrate his ongoing inspiration. – Gregor Muir, Executive Director ICA

SOUNDWORKS: 20 June – 16 September 2012

In conjunction with the exhibition of Nauman's 'Days', the ICA presents a series of sound commissions by a hundred artists from around the world. Selected by the ICA and institutions worldwide, the artists have been invited to submit a sound work taking its stimulus from the themes evoked in Nauman's 'Days'. SOUNDWORKS creates an online platform for the ICA - a virtual gallery space both in and outside the building, enabling us to reach out to wider audiences. One sound work will be featured each day via the platform and all the commissioned works will be accessible on the website, which will itself become a permanent archive.

Participating UK institutions include Arnolfini, Baltic, Henry Moore Institute, Modern Art Oxford, Nottingham Contemporary, Tramway and the Wysing Arts Centre. International institutions include Beirut Art Center, Lebanon, Kadist Art Foundation, France, Kunstverein Amsterdam, Louisiana, Denmark, Museum of Contemporary Art in Montreal, Canada, Niterói Contemporary Art Museum, Rio de Niterói, Brazil, SALT, Turkey, SFMOMA, and White Columns, New York.

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Listings information: Bruce Nauman, *Days*, Free exhibition: 19 June – 16 September 2012
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Editor's Notes

About Bruce Nauman

Bruce Nauman (b. 1941, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA) studied mathematics, physics and fine art at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and then pursued an MFA at the University of California, Davis. There artists such as Wayne Thiebaud and William T. Wiley supported his experimental attitude toward art making.

Nauman's first solo exhibition took place in 1966 at the Nicholas Wilder Gallery in Los Angeles and his work also featured in Lucy R. Lippard's Eccentric Abstraction group exhibition at the Fischbach Gallery in New York. Nauman's solo debut in New York at Leo Castelli Gallery in 1968 was soon followed by a one-man exhibition at Konrad Fischer's gallery in Düsseldorf. In 1973, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art co-organized the first museum survey, *Bruce Nauman: Works from 1965-1972*, an exhibition that also travelled in Europe. Nauman's work was included in the group exhibition "When Attitude Becomes Form" at the ICA, organised by Harald Szeeman in 1969. The ICA later organised a solo exhibition entitled "Bruce Nauman: Use Me" in 1991.

Nauman's work can be found in prominent museum collections throughout the world, and he has been the subject of many major solo exhibitions. Nauman has garnered multiple awards throughout his career including the Wexner Prize in 1994, the Leone d'oro (The Golden Lion) along with Louise Bourgeois at the 48th Venice Biennale in 1999, the Praemium Imperiale for Visual Arts in 2004 in Japan and the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009. Since 1975, Nauman has been represented in New York by Sperone Westwater. From 1979 Nauman has lived in New Mexico.

Bruce Nauman's 'Days' was previously shown as part of *Bruce Nauman: Topological Gardens* at the 53rd Venice Biennale, organised by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. 'Days' is presented at the ICA on loan from Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation, gift of the President, on permanent loan to Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, and The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Committee on Painting and Sculpture Funds, gift of The Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, Agnes Gund, The Hess Foundation, Michael Ovitz, Jerry I. Speyer, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Foundation, Donald B. Marron, and The Jill and Peter Kraus Contemporary Acquisition Fund.