



THE CONNAUGHT



**THE CONNAUGHT CHRISTMAS TREE 2023**  
**BY ARTIST DAME RACHEL WHITEREAD UNVEILED IN MAYFAIR**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November - The legendary Connaught Christmas Tree 2023 has been unveiled outside The Connaught, and this year has been designed by influential British artist and sculptor Dame Rachel Whiteread. This marks the start of the festive season on Mount Street in the heart of Mayfair.

The magnificent British sourced Premier Nordmann tree, stands 31ft tall on Carlos Place and is bedecked with 102 circular neon white hoops, illuminating the streets of Mayfair. Whiteread has incorporated circles of light into this year's design, encouraging Londoners to celebrate a feeling of togetherness and circles of positive brightness throughout the festive season. She regularly uses circular motive in her artistic practice and this tree is no exception, highlighting a symbol of hope this Christmas.

Commenting on her creation, Rachel Whiteread mentioned "I love the tradition of Christmas trees, whether at home with our chaotic scramble of worn-out ornaments and lights or the beautiful trees put in public spaces. I chose to use circles of light – a motif that I have used before. I love the simplicity of the idea, the light illuminating the beautiful Premier Nordmann tree. Creating a simple and ornamental tree that will light up the Mayfair neighbourhood."

Commenting on The Connaught Christmas Tree 2023 General Manager Sandeep Bhalla said "We are honoured and delighted that Dame Rachel Whiteread has agreed to add her magical touch to our precious Connaught Christmas Tree and shine a light on Mayfair this winter. We hope it will be enjoyed by our guests, Mayfair neighbours and indeed all of London throughout the festive season."

This will be the eighth year The Connaught Christmas Tree has been designed by a celebrated artist. Past trees include Suzy Murphy, Damien Hirst, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Michael Craig-Martin, Sean Scully, Idris Khan and Annie Morris. The Connaught has long established itself as playing a significant role in the art world amassing a considerable art collection over its 170-year history.

The Connaught Christmas Tree 2023 by Dame Rachel Whiteread will shine bright and illuminate Carlos Place until the first week of January 2024.

### **ABOUT THE CONNAUGHT**

In the heart of London's Mayfair, The Connaught, part of Maybourne, blends contemporary style, classic English character and impeccable service to create the ultimate in sophistication. Rooms and suites to suit every mood, exquisite cuisine from H el ene Darroze and Jean-Georges Vongerichten, the charm of The Connaught, Coburg and Red Room Bars, and Europe's first Aman Spa make this the perfect place to rest, relax and dine in style.

### **ABOUT RACHEL WHITEREAD**

Dame Rachel Whiteread studied painting at Brighton Polytechnic and sculpture at Slade School of Fine Art, England. Whiteread is the recipient of the 1993 Turner Prize, among other awards, and was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2019. Whiteread was also one of the Young British Artists who exhibited at the Royal Academy's Sensation exhibition in 1997.

Her poignant works explore the imprints of human life on the objects and environments that define our daily existence. In Rachel Whiteread's sculptures and drawings, everyday settings, objects, and surfaces are transformed into ghostly replicas that are eerily familiar.

Through casting, Whiteread makes visible those things that ordinarily go unseen. She frees her subject matter – from domestic objects to entire rooms and buildings – from practical use, suggesting a new permanence, imbued with memory. Collections include Tate, London; National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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