

## **Blenheim Palace acquires Hamish Mackie's 'Darkest Hour' sculpture of Sir Winston Churchill**

A bust of Sir Winston Churchill by award-winning sculptor Hamish Mackie, has been added to the permanent collection at Blenheim Palace.

Mackie, better known for his wildlife sculpture, first exhibited the bust of Churchill at the Chelsea Flower Show in May last year. It was seen by the Duke Of Marlborough who immediately acquired it for his Oxfordshire ancestral home, the birthplace of the wartime prime minister.

The 42cm high bronze bust is cast in a traditional style and shows Britain's most famous leader in reflective mood.

*"I wanted to bring something different to my study of this great man," says Mackie. "I knew I had to communicate more than just his likeness."*

Fans of Gary Oldman's portrayal of Churchill in the recent film "Darkest Hour", which has prompted a resurgence of interest in the British leader, will recognise Mackie's Churchill. The sculpture bears his uncanny likeness, but also resonates with his spirit.

*"I kept thinking about the monumental decisions Churchill made during the war. I wanted to capture his spirit as well as his instantly recognisable features. He is bearing the heavy responsibility for leading his country during the darkest hour, but I hope in his face I have also shown the kindness of the man beneath."*

The sculptor studied hundreds of photographs of Churchill, watched footage of him speaking, and researched extensively at Blenheim Palace.

A Palace spokesperson said:

*"We are delighted to be able to have this bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the Palace for our many visitors to see and it will have a prime position in the permanent Churchill exhibition."*

Hamish Mackie is widely acclaimed for his bronze and silver sculptures of wildlife. His work is held in public and private collections around the world. In 2016, Mackie won the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association's

annual Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture and Public Fountains, for his Goodman's Fields Horses - six larger than life-size bronze horses commissioned by Berkeley Homes, for the main Piazza at Goodman's Fields, London.

**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

<https://hamishmackie.com>

[hamish@hamishmackie.com](mailto:hamish@hamishmackie.com)

Tel: 07971 028098 / 01608 737859

Sir Winston Churchill 2017 sculpture information: <https://hamishmackie.com/sculptures/sir-winston-churchill-2017/>

Marsh Award: <http://www.pmsa.org.uk/marsh-award/marsh-award-2016/>

Latest catalogue: <https://hamishmackie.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Hamish-Mackie-Life-in-Bronze-2016-CATALOGUE.pdf>

Hi-res images available on request.

