



TRYST ME

RENOWNED BRITISH SCULPTOR PHYLLIDA BARLOW INVADÉS THE NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER'S GALLERIES WITH SIX REVOLUTIONARY INSTALLATIONS.

By Steve Carter

Getting to know the work of London's Phyllida Barlow is rife with paradox. The scale of her sculptural installations is monumental, yet her quotidian materials—wood, concrete, cardboard, cloth, tape, plaster—are “anti-monumental,” she concedes. The commonplace, hand-built makings of Barlow's works roughly juxtapose the august formality of their settings, making for curious, challenging bedfellows. Such will be the case when *Phyllida Barlow: tryst* opens at the Nasher Sculpture Center May 30. The Renzo Piano-designed museum and its patrons are in for quite a jolt.

“Yes, I think there's kind of a funny symbiosis, with the more handmade and ramshackle quality of Phyllida's sculpture and the more refined and elegant confines of Renzo's galleries,” says Nasher chief curator

and exhibition organizer Jed Morse. “But both Phyllida and Renzo are makers; Renzo doesn't have an architecture firm, he has a building workshop. That sense of working with one's hands, and craftsmanship, infuses his practice, and it's also at the core of what Phyllida does—I think

she would call herself a maker, first and foremost.” The six installations were created in just two weeks prior to opening, utilizing 38 crates of parts shipped from England.

Barlow's star has been especially ascendant since 2009, when she quit teaching at University College London's Slade School of Fine Art after 40-plus years. Since then, it's been a whirlwind of exhibiting, from Tate Britain to the New Museum in New York. “The attention is well deserved and long overdue,” Morse adds. “Phyllida can now focus almost exclusively on her own work, with its thrilling and extraordinary results.” Apocalyptic, enigmatic, sometimes absurd, embracing the experimental and unexpected, *Phyllida Barlow: tryst* is a must-see. *May 30-Aug. 30, nashersculpturecenter.org*

BRITISH INVASION
Phyllida Barlow's large-scale sculptural installations transform the Nasher through Aug. 30.

