



**Tony Cragg**  
 A Rare Category of Objects  
 04.03.17–03.09.17

**Talking Together**

Tony Cragg is an investigator of natural and man-made materials. Tony **stacks, heaps, bends, twists, joins** and **arranges**.

His art challenges our ideas about materials. Throughout his career he has investigated and explored materials and their properties.

- + How steel rusts
- + How wet stone can freeze
- + How a light material like polystyrene can look heavy



'Nature has had billions of years of practice and makes wonderful things'  
 Tony Cragg

Explore the different sculptures in the exhibition. What do Tony's sculptures remind you of? Use these words to make connections.

- |           |         |         |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Structure | Twist   | Weather |
| Machine   | Distort | Flow    |
| Layer     | Human   | Smear   |
| Contour   | Crumple | Age     |

Tony has always been impressed and involved with nature. He also worked as a lab technician for a rubber company as a young man and is as fascinated by science and technology as he is by nature.

He once said '**every material calculates its own form**'. What do you think this means? What would happen if the sculptures were made of something else? How would they change?

'I know very little at the outset because I'm not a conceptual artist but someone who believes and thinks through materials... I think I know where I'm going, but generally I end up somewhere else!'

Tony Cragg

Have you ever made something without knowing what it would end up as? How did the material lead you on your way?

As a boy Tony collected fossils and aspired to be a geologist. He talks about fossils as holding information. What do you think he means by this? Tony enjoys sorting and classifying materials. He even organises his sculptures into 'families'. Do you have a collection? How is it organised or displayed?

Patterns in a pebble can look like something. From a stone a fossil can emerge. What can you see hidden in the sculptures?

'The form looks like an iceberg, whittled away by polar winds'

Alexia Antsakli