



# THE CONNAUGHT



## **The Connaught Christmas Tree 2017 by Tracey Emin, CBE, unveiled in Mayfair**

London – The Connaught, London’s legendary Mayfair hotel, announces that The Connaught Christmas Tree 2017 has been designed by widely acclaimed British artist and longtime friend of the hotel, Tracey Emin, CBE.

Unveiled outside The Connaught, it marks the start of the festive season on Mount Street in Mayfair.

Tracey Emin, CBE, is sending London a message of love this festive season by writing a poem especially for The Connaught Christmas Tree. Topped with a glowing Angel, a nod to her mother Pam who died last year Tracey hopes that her Mum is looking down and sees her waving up at her. The magnificent Norway Spruce tree has been sourced from a farm in Harpenden near St Albans and stands 30 feet tall on Carlos Place. Christened by Tracey “Connaught purple”, the colored lights, shaped to represent the artist's distinctive handwriting, serve as decorations and have been carefully positioned for passer-by to read the poem.

Commenting on the tree Tracey said ‘I liked the idea of making the Christmas tree a love poem because words are free. The poem relates to the smile and a smile is free to give, it does not have to cost anything’

Commenting on her relationship with The Connaught, Tracey Emin, CBE added: "The Connaught is one of my favourite hotels in the entire world. I have had wonderful times there. My favourite being when I stayed there with my Mum before going to Buckingham Palace to receive my CBE. As my mum and I left the hotel the staff at the Connaught lined up either side of the lobby to give us a right royal send off. ‘

Paddy McKillen, co-owner of The Connaught, said: “We have a longstanding friendship with Tracey, and were honoured that she agreed to share her artistic vision with us at The Connaught this year to celebrate Christmas. I hope her tree will be enjoyed by our guests, our Mayfair neighbours and the whole of London.”

The Connaught has long-since established itself as playing a significant role in the art world and has amassed a considerable art collection over its 170 year history. Therefore it is particularly fitting that the hotel should have invited one of Britain's most significant female artists to create The Connaught Christmas Tree 2017, in the heart of this historical neighbourhood. This will be the third year The Connaught Christmas Tree has been designed by a celebrated artist.

FOR HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES CLICK ON THE DROPBOX LINK BELOW:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aejuo7evxswjtfr/AAD7KJx43z2KaVcRQtMIJ301a?dl=0>

#### NOTE TO EDITORS

Tracey Emin, CBE, has written this poem exclusively for The Connaught at Christmas

What I give to you is all that I have.

An Open wanting

Deep in The Layers of my heart

And in Return I catch

Your smile

The Greatest Gift of All

#### ABOUT THE CONNAUGHT

In the heart of London's Mayfair, The Connaught, part of Maybourne Hotel Group, 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 and Coburg Bars, and Europe's first Aman Spa make this the perfect place to rest, relax and dine in style.

#### ABOUT TRACEY EMIN, CBE

Tracey Emin was born in London in 1963, and studied at Maidstone College of Art and the Royal College of Art, London. She has exhibited extensively internationally including solo and group exhibitions in Holland, Germany, Japan, Australia and America. In 2007 Emin represented Britain at the 52nd Venice Biennale, becoming the second female artist to ever do so. That same year, Emin was made a Royal Academician and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal College of Art, a Doctor of Letters from the University of Kent and a Doctor of Philosophy from London Metropolitan University. In 2011 she became the Royal Academy's Professor of Drawing and in 2012, Queen Elizabeth II appointed her Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for her contributions to the visual arts.

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