



Lesson (two figures)

John Davies

On display

Title/Description: Lesson (two figures)

Artist/Maker: John Davies

Born: 1973 - 1975

Object Type: Sculpture

Materials: Fibre, Metal, Paint, Resin, Wood

Measurements: h. 1885 x w. 2425 x d. 2325 mm

Accession Number: 641

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Britain, England, Europe

Copyright: © John Davies

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1978

Davies has exploited his medium in this work by placing two figures in a situation in which their apparent conversation is all but silent. One male, slightly taller, seems to instruct the other, but their garb and accoutrements are so similar as to make them seem Doppelgänger. Where the effect of *Bucket Man* is one of iconographic complexity, *Lesson* is by contrast a haunting essay in economy of means. A few features - grey, nearly conventional clothes, pale flesh, rhythmically repeated ladder forms draped over the figures - bind the two men together in a powerful statement of mysterious privacy, a privacy emphasised by the large base, which frames the figures and keeps the viewer at a distance.

Graham Beal, 1997

Entry taken from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection 3 volume catalogue, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997).
