



## Lesson (two figures)

John Davies

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**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

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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).

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