



Beuys' Acorns, 2007

Ackroyd & Harvey

On display

Title/Description: Beuys' Acorns, 2007

Artist/Maker: Ackroyd & Harvey

Born: 2023

Object Type: Installation

Materials: Oak trees

Accession Number: 50934

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Credit Line: Planted Sainsbury Centre Sculpture Park, 2025 / TG 19505 07373

Ackroyd & Harvey combine art and activism to address the climate and ecological crisis. The oak trees are living sculptures planted in a circle of seven, one of many circles being planted across public spaces in partnership with cultural centres.

Beuys' Acorns was initiated in 2007 when Ackroyd & Harvey germinated hundreds of acorns collected from the environmental artwork *7000 Oaks: City Forestation Instead of City Administration* by artist Joseph Beuys.

Between 1982 and 1987, Beuys planted 7,000 trees with help from volunteers in Kassel, Germany. He chose oak for its longevity and connections with ancient Celtic folklore. Beuys believed art could be used to inspire social and political change. Seeing *7000 Oaks* as 'only a symbolic beginning' he hoped it would encourage people to plant trees across the world. His aim was to raise ecological awareness, aid mental wellbeing and improve the environment.

Designed to evolve and continuously benefit the local ecosystem for generations to come, *Beuys' Acorns* creates a natural canopy for creative exploration and for people to meet and exchange ideas.

Exhibitions

Sediment Spirit: The Activation of Art in the Anthropocene, Sainsbury Centre - 15th October 2023 to 14th April 2024.
