

DAVID JACOBSON

b. 1951 in Namibia. Lives and works in London and Camaiore, Italy.

Earth Lung, 2022

Soil, grass, pneumatic pillows, inverted trampolines

Base 1: 470 x 470 cm

Base 2: 320 x 320 cm

David Jacobson's sculptures interact with nature. By means of minimalist forms made of stone or wood, as well as subtle interventions in public spaces, they refine our bodies' awareness as we approach our surroundings. *Earth Lung* is one of these interventions. At first glance, it appears almost invisible: a circle five metres in diameter on the ground, covered by grass, moves up and down as if the earth were inhaling and exhaling. It owes its effect to a concealed ground apparatus—a kind of oversized bellows—that Jacobson has installed.

On the one hand, *Earth Lung* follows an established Land Art tradition; artists have been making sculptural interventions in the landscape since the 1960s. At the same time, the work's technological components enable visitors to playfully engage with it, creating a new experience at ground level that seems to become as tangible to the senses as the body of a living creature.

Jacobson's work is influenced by his profound experiences of nature during his childhood in Namibia and South Africa, as well as his countless travels. *Earth Lung* is a response to nature's recovery during the first year of the pandemic, seeking to make us aware that the earth, too, can breathe a sigh of relief.

“Parks, gardens, and green spaces are the lungs of our cities! During the pandemic, when there were fewer cars, trains, planes, and industry, we have seen how much nature has reclaimed large parts of its territory. The air is cleaner, the waters clearer, and birds have returned in droves to our cities and green spaces.”