



La Napoule Art Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Fe sculptor Will Clift win's France's 2022 Henry Clews Prize

La Napoule Art Foundation (LNAF) congratulates Will Clift (b. 1978) on winning the 2022 Henry Clews Prize. This prestigious prize provides an accomplished sculptor with studio space and resources for a year's residency and a summer exhibition at the Château de La Napoule in France. Clift begins his time in France in September.

In 2010, La Napoule Art Foundation established the Henry Clews Prize to honor the sculptural legacy of Henry Clews, an American sculptor who with his wife, Marie, purchased and restored the Château de la Napoule starting in 1918. This biennial prize, awarded by invitation only, recognizes one distinguished sculptor who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishment. Previous Prix recipients include Serge van de Put, Nicolas Lavarenne, and Ana María Hernando.

"During his group residency a decade ago, we saw an emerging artist with raw energy in both work and character that expressed a spirit of discovery reminiscent of Henry Clews. Clift's forms have a distinct certainty and seemingly impossible equilibrium, yet the gestures are playful and seem to dance and bend with their surroundings," says LNAF Board President Natasha Clews Gallaway. "We are excited to give him dedicated time and resources to create site-specific art in the Château gardens. We hope this is a chance for Clift, now mid-career, to delve deeper into his continued exploration of balance and contextual work."

Clift is spending the year developing site-specific works in the château and its gardens, as well as more deeply exploring the themes of balance and equilibrium through installation works. He is also experimenting with new materials and processes to explore issues of land use, water scarcity, and climate change as they relate both to southern France, and to the area around his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

About the Artist:

Will Clift is a contemporary artist best known for his minimalist, balance-based sculptures. Working within a variety of materials, Clift's sculptures consist of intersecting parts that stand or suspend together in equilibrium. Following a lineage of kinetic sculptors that includes Alexander Calder and George Riky, Will extends his exploration of the medium in unique ways by harmoniously juggling whimsy, gesture, and balance with graceful lines that imply, without overstating, form.

Born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Clift has been creating sculptural forms since the age of four. His years of balancing building blocks in his childhood home; those spent designing functional furniture in high school; as well as those immersed within Stanford University's intellectual melting-pot, where he acquired sophisticated machine-shop skills, entrepreneurial skills, and both a B.S. and an M.S. combining engineering, psychology,



Clift installing a recent sculpture

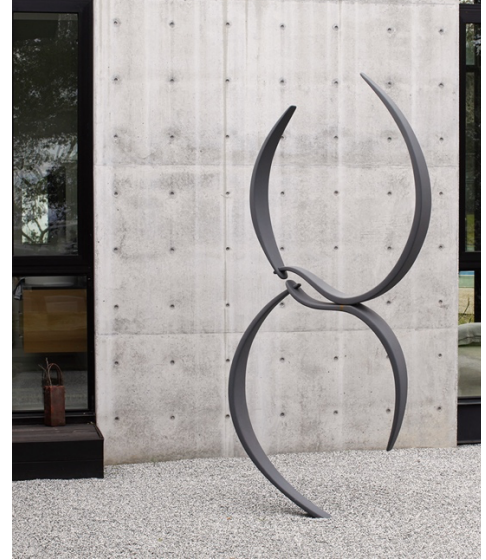


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design, and management, have all informed this young artist's aesthetic sense and sculptural agility. Clift's works are held by dozens of collections including the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, Jacksonville, FL; Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO; City of Santa Fe Parks Department, Santa Fe, NM; The Bank of China, Hong Kong and others.



Above: *Two Pairs Intersecting Each Other*, carbon fiber composite and hardwood, 28 x 57 x 2 inches
Right: *Enclosing Form, Round*, carbon fiber composite, steel, automotive paint, 84 x 42 x 7 inches





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About La Napoule Art Foundation:

Founded in 1951 by Marie Clews to promote intercultural understanding through the arts, LNAF has been hosting resident artists for over 70 years. Central to LNAF's mission, artist-in-residence programs offer time and space for creative minds to engage in meaningful cultural exchange.

The Château de la Napoule is located in the historic seaside town of Mandelieu-La Napoule on the French Riviera. Situated on a spectacular site overlooking the sea, parts of the original structure date back to the 14th century. It is recognized in France as a *monument historique* for its incredible restoration and architectural details. Six acres of magnificent gardens surround the property. For more information, visit laf.org.



The Château de La Napoule

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