

GRAHAM FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry will be on view at the Graham Foundation from April 15 through June 18, 2011.



Icosahedron with nested cube, "Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry," Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago, 2011.

Image by James Prinz Photography

Chicago, IL.— *Inhabiting Geometry* presents the work of the visionary architect and theorist Anne Tyng. Since the 1950s, when she worked closely with Louis I. Kahn and independently pioneered habitable space-frame architecture, Tyng has applied natural and numeric systems to built forms on all scales, from urban plans to domestic spaces. This exhibition features room size models of the five platonic solids (the tetrahedron, cube, octahedron, dodecahedron and icosahedron). Identified in ancient times, the platonic solids are the only regular equilateral and equiangular polyhedra. These forms can be found in nature, such as in the structure of crystals. The installation, together with archival material, illustrates the synthesis of Tyng's life-long research on advanced geometry and how she derives her own built forms through the symmetries, orders, and dynamic progressions by which one form in geometry becomes another.

Demonstrating this vision at work is a selection of drawings, models, and other documentation of past projects, including: *City Tower* (with Kahn, 1952-1957); *Urban Hierarchy* (1970); and *the Four-Poster House* (1971-1974). There are also examples of Tyng's publications and research, which investigate Jungian cycles, city squares, and the cosmos. Throughout, geometry is both rational and expressive, as much a means of contemplation as of calculation and construction.

In 1965, Anne Tyng was one of the first women to receive a fellowship from the Graham Foundation for her project *Anatomy of Form: The Divine Proportion in the Platonic Solids*. In her research she developed a theory of hierarchies of symmetry—symmetries within symmetries—and a search for architectural insight and revelation in the consistency and beauty of all underlying form. A portion of this research was published in the article *Geometric Extensions of Consciousness* in the Italian architectural journal *Zodiak* #19 in 1969.

“Tyng’s ideas, supported by the Graham Foundation over 45 years ago, resonate deeply with contemporary architects who are working with complex geometry as a source for new forms in building,” notes Sarah Herda, Director of the Graham Foundation. “She was at the forefront of experimentation in the field, and this exhibition introduces her work to new generations who are also working to push the spatial potential of architecture.”

Anne Tyng (b. 1920 Jiangxi, China; lives in San Francisco) was among the first women ever to receive a Masters of Architecture from Harvard University. Beginning in 1947, she worked with Louis I. Kahn and was instrumental in the design of the Trenton Bath House and Yale University Art Gallery. After 1968, she focused her attention on research, earning her doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania where she subsequently taught for almost thirty years.

CURATORS

Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry was organized by ICA Senior Curator Ingrid Schaffner; consulting curator Srdjan Jovanović Weiss, Assistant Professor, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Temple University; and William Whitaker, Curator and Collections Manager, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania. This exhibition is a collaboration between the ICA and The Architectural Archives at UPenn. Additionally, Director of the Graham Foundation, Sarah Herda and Program Coordinator, Ellen Hartwell Alderman contributed to the Chicago exhibition.

RELATED EVENT

April 15, 2011, 6PM

Opening Reception with Anne Tyng and curators Ingrid Schaffner, Srdjan Jovanović Weiss, and William Whitaker

For more information and to RSVP, visit:

http://www.grahamfoundation.org/public_events/3903-opening-reception-anne-tyng-inhabiting-geometry

Accessibility: *Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry* is located on the first and second floors of the Madlener House. The second floor is only accessible by stairs. The first floor is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

A catalog co-published by the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia (ICA) and the Graham Foundation, and distributed by DAP will accompany the exhibition. *Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry* features drawings and documentation of projects by Tyng and photographs of the installations at both the ICA and the Graham Foundation. The catalog includes essays by Alicia Imperiale, Jenny Sabin and Srdjan Jovanović Weiss, as well as an illustrated chronology of Anne Tyng’s life by Ingrid Schaffner and William Whitaker.

FUNDING

ICA is grateful to the Edna W. Andrade Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts for their generous support. They acknowledge Barbara B. & Theodore R. Aronson for their generous sponsorship of the exhibition catalogue. Their thanks to Korin and Larry Korman, Archer & Buchanan Architecture, Ltd., and Kieran Timberlake Associates LLP for additional project funding. ICA is also grateful for support from the: Cheri S. & Steven M. Friedman Vision Endowment Fund; Howard A. Silverstein & Patricia B. Silverstein Exhibition Endowment Fund; Dorothy A. Weber & Stephen R. Weber Endowment Fund; and Lawrence Reichlin. Additional funding has been provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; The Dietrich Foundation, Inc.; the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art; friends and members of ICA; and the University of Pennsylvania. ICA receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania would like to thank Korin and Larry Korman.

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society. The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect who was a protégé of Daniel Burnham.

EXHIBITION LOCATION & HOURS

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts
Madlener House
4 West Burton Place
Chicago, IL 60610
www.grahamfoundation.org

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11AM to 5PM; every third Thursday of the month, 11AM to 8PM. Group tours available.

The Graham Foundation will offer public tours of *Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry* every Saturday at 2PM. Saturday tours do not require reservations and are free and open to the public. Tours will begin in the foyer on the first floor and last approximately 30 minutes.

Accessibility: *Anne Tyng: Inhabiting Geometry* is located on the first and second floors of the Madlener House. The second floor is only accessible by stairs. The first floor of is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.
Admission: Free

For more information: 312.787.4071 / publicprograms@grahamfoundation.org

###

High-resolution digital images and publication excerpts are available online; email Sarah Rogers at srogers@grahamfoundation.org for login information. Press tours available by appointment. Contact Sarah Rogers for additional information.

Media Contact: Sarah Rogers, Graham Foundation
312.787.4071/ srogers@grahamfoundation.org