



**NICK CAVE**  
*AMALGAM (ORIGIN)*

## Press on Nick Cave's *Amalgam (Origin)*

"Titled *Amalgam (Origin)*, the sculpture is a powerful statement on rebirth, regeneration and transformation—an emblem of resilience, even in times of destruction and despair." —*Observer*

"Anchored in humanity yet soaring toward transcendence, the sculptures offer moments of reflection and awe, with *Amalgam (Origin)* standing nearly twenty-six feet tall, invoking themes of growth and resistance." —*ArteFuse*

"Cave encourages a profound and compassionate analysis of violence and its effects as the path towards an ultimate metamorphosis." —*Tribeca Citizen*

"As Cave enters his new era of self-representation, his work remains a powerful reflection of both personal identity and a larger societal need for compassion, resilience, and transformation." —*Elephant*

Nick Cave's art is deeply rooted—in his family, in community, in craft, and in nature. His work is also grounded in concerns of social justice. The power of *Amalgam (Origin)* stems from this fertile mix; a blend of the personal and communal, exceptional and traditional.

Cave's monumental bronze sculpture evolved from his *Soundsuits* series, the first of which was made of twigs gathered in the wake of Rodney King's 1991 assault by police. The natural world provided Cave with a skin of bristling wood, solace in the face of violence. For more than two decades, he fashioned a wardrobe of extravagant armor, vibrant garb to protect his own black body. Beneath flamboyant attire, one can be both hidden and adorned, concealed and conspicuous.

When Cave added bronze to his creative repertoire, his art gained new life in the public domain, able to withstand the elements. His first full bronze, *A•mal•gam*—which he proposed to replace toppled Confederate statues—cast his dark physique as a seated branching torso. Three years later, with *Amalgam (Origin)*, his body grew into a 26-foot giant, a sanctuary for birds and fraught souls alike. The artist's figure now stands proudly naked, except for a surface of raised vegetation. A nod to his initial suit of sticks, *Amalgam (Origin)* also signals a heroic return to the primacy of nature. Assuming its place among wildlife and trees, this sculpture, like Cave himself, has found shelter in the open air. With its inspiring fecundity, *Amalgam (Origin)* urges us to seek refuge amidst nature's bounty.

—*Suzanne Ramljak, Vice President of Collections & Curatorial Affairs*