

31 August 2017

Project – Joy and Peace

By Morag Myerscough and Luke Morgan

Commissioned by Culture Mile, a major destination for culture and creativity in the Square Mile led by the City of London Corporation together with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London

JOY & PEACE', is a response to the fractious times we are all living in. We felt strongly that we wanted to make a piece of work that was full of positivity, hope, strength and the power to bring people together with joy in the heart of London for Culture Mile.

JOY a 97m wall installation grows out of the openings along the brutalist Barbican Centre car park, Silk Street London. PEACE in contrast is set in an underused historic garden with ancient trees and squirrels chasing around. The installation has transformed the garden into a place for people to gather, relax and socialise with the Peace pavilion being the centre piece and stage for the performances and activities which have never been seen in this garden before and starts to change peoples perceptions of familiar places that they previously overlooked.

*The artwork is composed of 6 symbols: heart = LOVE; globe = SOCIETY; PEOPLE; sun = JOY; eyes = WIDE OPEN; star = ENERGY; flower = PEACE and combined together radiate positivity.*

*JOY installation represents the symbols on equal levels with all the powers working together and the PEACE Pavilion and Garden focuses on the sun=JOY and the flower=PEACE symbols to create a playful and thought-provoking space."*

Handpainted on plywood in Morag's studio in Hoxton, London with a small team of painters, the installations were constructed using their signature beloved scaffolding and neon.

During the design process Morag did workshops with the local schools and the patterns on the entrance gates to the garden incorporate some of the patterns.

JOY AND PEACE has been commissioned by Culture Mile. Culture Mile is the beating heart of London, a place where creativity is fast becoming the most valuable currency. The City of London Corporation together with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, are leading the animation of the whole neighbourhood with imaginative collaborations and events. Culture Mile brings commerce and culture together in a wealth of creativity. Known meets unknown. Ancient and modern collide as the streets are activated by exhibitions, gigs, pop-ups and events. So whether you're with family, friends or flying solo, there's something

for everyone. And thanks to Crossrail's new Elizabeth Line connections at Farringdon and Moorgate, the area is more connected than ever.

## **Editor's Notes**

### **Culture Mile**

Plans for Culture Mile, which were announced last month, will see the area stretching from Farringdon to Moorgate improved through better wayfinding and signage, new green spaces, lighting, public information and art installations. To signal the first steps in the animation and transformation of the area, Culture Mile Pop Ups features a range of temporary art installations, gardens and signage.

### **Artists**

Morag Myerscough: instagram @moragmyerscough

Luke Morgan: instagram @lukemorganuk

Photo Credit: Gareth Gardner

### **Contacts**

Press contact: Morag Myerscough 07736 074440

morag@studomyerscough.co.uk

## **Morag Myerscough**

Morag Myerscough's work is characterised by an engaging boldness, creating specific, local responses to each distinct audience that will see and experience the work, using it to create community and build identity. Morag makes places from spaces that people like to be in, that stimulate and often make you smile. She creates and curates many different types of work. The eclectic breadth of work covers the conversion of a train to a café, a tweet building, a hospital ward and interpreting lots of types of buildings.

Morag worked with the architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris Architects on Burntwood School which won the RIBA Stirling Prize for Architecture 2015.

Over the last 5 years Morag Myerscough & Luke Morgan have been designing the Permanent exhibition at the New Design Museum which opened 24 November 2017

Sheffield Children's hospital Bedrooms has just won a Design Week Award.

Morag regularly speaks globally about 'belonging' and 'making spaces into places.'

Instagram & twitter  
@moragmyerscough

## **Luke Morgan**

Punk is not just an aesthetic to Luke Morgan, his paintings explore found materials in the form of words and their meanings. Found language — graffiti and the idea of embracing the wildness in both large and small scale pieces. His paintings with chosen words and pop-art colours have titles like

'Monarchy' and 'king Rocker' that connect with his neon sculptures and "Elvis Fans, all harking back to Morgan's varied experiences as 80's psychobilly musician and devotee of a 50's aesthetic.

He writes and performs with his band 'The highliners' and curated the 'Let it Rock' venue at the award winning Vintage at Goodwood festival.

Instagram & twitter @thelukemorganuk  
www.lukemorgan.co.uk

### **Recent work by Morag Myerscough & Luke Morgan**

2012 Movement Café in Greenwich working with poet Lemn Sissay.  
In 2013 the 'MovementCafé' won the Best Public Space Scheme FX Design Award and was commended for the AJ Sustainability Small Project Award.

Other projects:

2013 —Discovery Pavilion at the new Library of Birmingham.  
Last year they completed a kinetic installation called 'Swing it!' in the Orangery, Wakefield, Yorkshire, UK.

2014 —Temple of Agape for the Southbank Festival of Love, London

2015 — 'Superstructure' for the Kulturefestival Sweden

2015 — Mirar Y Ver — Camera Obscura — Zocolo Square, Mexico City

2016 — Wide Open — temporary installation Graz

2016 — 'Signmachine' commissioned by Bulgari for the London Design Festival

2017 — Superbar — Sugar Mountain Festival, Melbourne, Australia

2017 — Joy and Peace, London

2017 — Superhot, Romania