



Press release: 14 September 2018

Culture Mile presents *Brutalist Tapestry*, an installation by artist Jason Bruges in Beech Street Tunnel

Artist Jason Bruges has created *Brutalist Tapestry*, the latest large-scale installation commissioned by Culture Mile that is also part of London Design Festival 2018 and launches on Saturday 15 September.

Brutalist Tapestry is a kinetic and interactive installation in Beech Street Tunnel (opposite Barbican Underground), inspired by the hand-crafted concrete finish of the Barbican Estate. The artwork replaces a 21-metre section of panels on the south side of Beech Street Tunnel with a programmable 'tapestry' of analogue pixels. This handmade and analogue technology of the moving pixel is a reference to the bush-hammering process that was used to create the distinctive Barbican Estate concrete textures.

The artwork incorporates three moving electronic arms, to physically alter the position of the pixels and gradually reveal Culture Mile generated patterns and designs to passers-by. The pixels use the existing colour palette of Beech Street to subvert the tunnel wall and create an alternative narrative for Beech Street.

The resulting *Brutalist Tapestry* reflects its surroundings and is drawn from creative content in Culture Mile. Whether imagery, sound or data the artwork translates this into physical marks on the tunnel wall. *Brutalist Tapestry* prompts questions about the future possibilities for this space and marks the next stage of Culture Mile's long-term ambition to transform Beech Street.

Content to include:

- Culture Mile core partners, including the London Symphony Orchestra performance of Bernstein's *Wonderful Town*, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle and recorded live at the Barbican, newly released on the LSO Live label
- Images from around Culture Mile - which stretches from Farringdon to Moorgate - showcasing the architecture and events that have taken place within the area
- Heritage images such as Barbican construction workers
- Working with community members to celebrate stories from the local area by creating and collating content such as audio interviews, poetry and images
- Working with the Culture Mile Network and local businesses in a second phase of content in 2019

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Jason Bruges commented, "I love the idea of 'hacking' an urban environment, working within site-specific constraints, and creating a meaningful intervention. I see us creating a catalyst for change within Culture Mile. The site is a thoroughfare and unloved, however it's an important entrance to an epicentre of cultural activity. I really hope our work will bring a change of perception, so that visitors begin to understand this important passageway as a journey into the Barbican environment."

Catherine McGuinness, Policy Chairman, City of London Corporation, said, "Jason Bruges' *Brutalist Tapestry* is the latest in a series of installations and interventions across Culture Mile, signalling the first steps in the animation and transformation of the area. Beech Street is a vital east-west route and the backbone of Culture Mile and it is a major priority for improvement to make it a more welcoming environment. *Brutalist Tapestry* is inspired by the Barbican Estate and is a testing ground for using Beech Street as a cultural space turning the 21-metre installation into an open canvas. It will be in place for at least a year and I can't wait to see Jason's installation come to life."

Technical details:

- The artwork is a mechanical pixel display
- Brutalist Tapestry consists of 2,310 movable pixels
- The pixels have no integrated automation, they instead rotate independently on 10mm diameter stainless steel spindles
- The artwork uses a mechanical gantry system designed to rotate each column of pixels as it moves along the tunnel
- The artwork uses an integrated sensing system for accurate positioning of the pixels

Jason Bruges is well known for creating works that manifest on an architectural scale that live at the intersection between art, technology and culture. The studios approach to using technology creates a sense of magic for audiences, acting as a platform for telling stories and creating engaging immersive experiences.

Plans for Culture Mile were announced in July 2017. Led by the City of London Corporation with the Barbican, Guildhall School, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, the five core partners will lead the transformation of the area over the next decade and beyond, improving their offer to audiences with imaginative collaborations, outdoor programming and events seven days a week. Links between venues will be improved and major enhancements to the streets and wider public realm will enliven the area which, as Culture Mile expands and flourishes, will be regenerated. Crossrail's new Elizabeth Line connections at Farringdon and Moorgate will make it much easier to travel to, and from, the City. Around 1.5 million additional visitors a year will be within a 45-minute journey of the area when the Elizabeth Line becomes fully operational in December 2019 and the North-South Thameslink line is upgraded.

Notes to Editors

About Culture Mile

Culture Mile is a corner of London's working capital, 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. Join us today where two thousand years of history collide with the world's best culture. www.culturemile.london

The Culture Mile Network is an extensive network of organisations in and around the area which are playing a critical role in realising the ambitions of Culture Mile, alongside the five core partners. See www.culturemile.london/who-we-are/ for the latest members.

About Jason Bruges Studio

Jason Bruges Studio has become internationally renowned for producing innovative installations, interventions and ground-breaking works. This practice involves creating interactive spaces and surfaces that sit between the world of architecture, site-specific installation art and interaction design. Considered a pioneer of this hybrid in-between space, Jason has subsequently paved the way for a new genre of design studios, artists and designer-makers.

About London Design Festival

Established in 2003 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans, London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world. London Design Festival has since earned the reputation as a key calendar moment of London's autumn creative season, alongside London Fashion Week, Frieze Art Fair and the London Film Festival, attracting the greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to the capital, in a citywide celebration.

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www.londondesignfestival.com

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About Culture Mile Core Partners

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, the Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue Entertainment](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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About the City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

About the Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and ranked as the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music, the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world.

About the London Symphony Orchestra

The LSO was established in 1904 and has a unique ethos. As a musical collective, it is built on artistic ownership and partnership. With an inimitable signature sound, the LSO's mission is to bring the greatest music to the greatest number of people. The LSO has been the only Resident Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in the City of London since it opened in 1982, giving 70 symphonic concerts there every year. The Orchestra works with a family of artists that includes some of the world's

greatest conductors – Sir Simon Rattle as Music Director, Gianandrea Noseda and François-Xavier Roth as Principal Guest Conductors, Michael Tilson Thomas as Conductor Laureate and André Previn as Conductor Emeritus. Through LSO Discovery, it is a pioneer of music education, offering musical experiences to 60,000 people every year and over 100 live events at its music education centre LSO St Luke's on Old Street. With the formation of its own record label LSO Live in 1999 the LSO pioneered a revolution in recording live orchestral music. The LSO strives to embrace new digital technologies – having successfully moved into digital film, Blu-Ray Audio, downloads, streaming and virtual reality – and it continues to innovate with platforms such as LSO Play, a web-based video player that allows people to observe the Orchestra from different angles. The LSO is also a highly successful creative enterprise, with 80% of all funding self-generated. www.lso.co.uk

About the Museum of London

The Museum of London tells the ever-changing story of this great world city and its people, from 450,000 BC to the present day. Our galleries, exhibitions, displays and activities seek to inspire a passion for London and provide a sense of the vibrancy that makes the city such a unique place. In close collaboration with our funders the City of London Corporation and Greater London Authority, the Museum of London will contribute to our shared goal of making the local area a world-class Cultural Hub. The museums are open daily 10am – 6pm and are FREE to all, and you can explore the Museum of London with collections online – home to 80,000 objects with more being added. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Press Information

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