

**SCULPTURE IN THE CITY
UNVEILS INAUGURAL ALDGATE SQUARE COMMISSION:
EARTHING, BY JOCELYN MCGREGOR**



Jocelyn McGregor, *Earthing*, 2022 © the artist. Photo: Nick Turpin

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(May 2022) Sculpture in the City presents *Earthing*, a new site-specific public artwork by Jocelyn McGregor, as the inaugural Aldgate Square Commission. This biannual commission was launched in 2020 to support emerging artists in the UK and create new public artworks for Aldgate Square. The work also features as part of Sculpture in the City's 11th edition which opens to the public on 21st June and is supported by the City of London Corporation in partnership with local businesses.

Jocelyn McGregor, based in Nottingham, has used her own body as a starting point in her artistic practice, which seeks the point of transition between internal and external, real and imagined, natural and synthetic worlds.

Earthing imagines a more permeable boundary between man-made and organic materials within urban spaces. Resembling a crumbling curved section of wall or a dry-stone shelter on a mountain-top, the tactile work features hybrid creatures, from giant snail shells with human limbs to cross-legged snakes. McGregor's starting point is her own body, seen as a gateway between the human and natural world. Her work acts like a fantastical magnifying glass, focusing on the interconnections between our manufactured and natural environments, advocating for a more holistic view of the world. Blending a combination of materials together, including acrylic, Jesmonite, stone and bronze, McGregor plays with tactility – each material having a different porosity, temperature, and feel.

To McGregor, *Earthing* symbolises her own experiences during lockdown, and how her cast limbs crawling out of the snail shell become a symbol of her emergence from her COVID bubble into the outside world. Recognising the positive power of touch, and keen for the open structure artwork to be accessible, *Earthing* has not been placed on a plinth so that visitors feel encouraged to touch the artwork, and use it to sit, pause, and engage with, while enjoying a moment of connection with nature and art in Aldgate Square. It is hoped that the use of stone will provide a natural habitat for insects, too.

“This is such a fantastic opportunity to showcase my work to a wider audience. There’s nothing else like Sculpture in the City and I’m thrilled to be included in this year’s programme alongside so many amazing artists. So often art is on a plinth or behind a barrier so to have my work readily accessible to people is something I’m really excited about, a key next step in my working practice I reckon. I hope the public will engage with it and find ways to make it part of their daily lives - as the natural world has I’ve already noticed moths and bees exploring its surfaces and various nooks and crannies,” says artist **Jocelyn McGregor**.



Jocelyn McGregor, 2022 © Photo: Nick Turpin

Stella Ioannou, Artistic Director of Sculpture in the City, says: “I am delighted to see *Earthing* unveiled today. It has been such a joy to support Jocelyn McGregor navigating her creative journey – from an incredibly imaginative proposal to wonderfully accomplished and compelling sculpture, and I couldn’t think of a better artwork to mark the inaugural Aldgate Square Commission. This new commission offers the opportunity to emerging artists, within the first five years of their sculpture practice, to engage with the



Jocelyn McGregor, *Earthing*, 2022 © the artist. Photo: Nick Turpin

complexity of working in the public realm. Jocelyn’s work was chosen for its strong contextual resonance with the site and the local community – it is heart-warming to see it already becoming a focal point in the square, with locals and visitors alike engaging with it in their daily lives.”

Whitney Hintz, Arts Advisory Group Member, says: “The Aldgate Square commission is an exciting addition to the Sculpture in the City programme. It’s a fantastic opportunity for artists, allowing them the chance to realise public artwork for the first time. Jocelyn McGregor’s commission proposal was ambitious and beguiling. I love that she is creating an interactive work that is accessible to both the public and the natural world. I can’t wait to see it in person.”

Zoe Barwick, BID Manager, Aldgate Connect, says: “Aldgate Connect BID was so pleased to support this fantastic sculpture for our area. Aldgate Square is an award-winning space used by so many; it’s a pleasure to host Jocelyn’s piece at the heart of our community. *Earthing* is a uniquely interesting piece, co-created by local community workshops; the artwork echoes many voices in the locality, bringing art in the public realm to the people that walk past it every day.”

The Aldgate Square Commission is a new biannual commission that aims to support emerging artists in the UK. Launched in 2020, an initial group of 12 artists were nominated by members of the Sculpture in the City Arts Advisory Group, which includes: Jane Alison, Head of Visual



Arts, Barbican Art Centre; Iwona Blazwick OBE, Former Director, Whitechapel Gallery; Wendy Fisher, Collector and Philanthropist; Whitney Hintz, Hiscox Curator; and Andrea Schlieker, Tate Britain; artist Thomas J Price; and Sepake Angjama, Artistic Director, Iniva. After submitting a proposal for a temporary site-specific public artwork for Aldgate Square, which considered the cultural and historical significance of the local area, five artists were shortlisted and given the opportunity to develop their proposals through community workshops during June 2021. The shortlisted artists were Byron Kalomamas, Christina Peake, and Harun Morrison, as well as Jocelyn McGregor and Emii Alrai.

Emii Alrai's work has been chosen for the second Aldgate Square Commission that will be unveiled in May 2023.

The Sculpture in the City Aldgate Square Commission is delivered in partnership with Aldgate Connect BID and the City of London Corporation Outdoor Arts Programme.

Bloomberg Connects

A guide to Sculpture in the City is also available through Bloomberg Connects, which features artists speaking directly about their work and provides a new way to explore the tenth edition artworks on display, both in-person and virtually.

A free digital guide to cultural organisations around the world, Bloomberg Connects makes it easy to access and engage with arts and culture from mobile devices, anytime, anywhere. The app offers the ability to learn about current exhibitions and displays at a portfolio of participating cultural partners through dynamic content exclusive to each organisation. Features include expert commentary, video highlights, pinch-and-zoom capability, multilingual guides and exhibition and way-finding maps.

The past ten editions of Sculpture in the City are currently available on the app. The 11th edition will be available this June alongside information about the Aldgate Square Commission. Download the app via Apple Store or Google Play.

ENDS



Notes to Editors

Sculpture in the City is an annual exhibition of contemporary art placed amidst the iconic architecture of the City of London, accompanied by a free programme of events and educational activities. The initiative is delivered through a partnership between the City of London Corporation in collaboration with Aviva, Bloomberg, Brookfield Properties, CC Land, Hiscox, London & Oriental, Nuveen Real Estate, Tower 42 and 22 Bishopsgate.

Project Patrons: Leadenhall Market, Mtec, PLP Architecture, Price & Myers

With thanks to participating artists, galleries and representatives:

Alice Channer, Bosco Sodi, Bram Ellens, Brooke Benington, Claudia Wieser, Elisa Artesero, Emma Louise Moore, Emma Smith, Eva Rothschild, Guillaume Vandame, Jesse Pollock, Jocelyn McGregor, Jun T. Lai, König Galerie, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Mike Ballard, Ministry of Culture, Taiwan, Modern Art, London, Oliver Bragg, Pedro Pires, Sadie Coles HQ, Sarah Lucas, Shezad Dawood, Sies + Höke Galerie, Ugo Rondinone, Victor Seaward.

Arts Advisory Group

The Arts Advisory Group includes: Jane Alison, Head of Visual Arts, Barbican Art Centre; Iwona Blazwick OBE, Former Director, Whitechapel Gallery; Wendy Fisher, Collector and Philanthropist; Whitney Hintz, Hiscox Curator; and Andrea Schlieker, Tate Britain. In 2020 we also welcomed guest artist Thomas J Price, who exhibited in Sculpture in the City in 2018; and Sepake Angiama, Artistic Director, Iniva.

About the City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation, which owns and manages Guildhall Art Gallery, 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.

The City of London Corporation, which sponsors Sculpture in the City, invests over £130m every year in heritage and cultural activities of all kinds. It is the UK's largest funder of cultural activities after the government, the BBC, and Heritage Lottery Fund. In partnership with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra, and Museum of London, the City Corporation is leading the development of Culture Mile between Farringdon and Moorgate, the City of London's new cultural district, building a world-class hub of creativity, innovation and learning.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

About Aldgate Connect

Aldgate Connect is a Business Improvement District set up in April 2020 raising £3.9 million over 5 years. With a vast array of cultures, businesses and places to enjoy, it makes this area one of the most diverse and exciting places to be, work, visit and live. Together with the local authority partners, (City of London and London Borough of Tower Hamlets) the BID



works with the community to enhance it as a destination for all. Creativity, inspiration and inclusivity is at the heart of the BID's ambitions - working on programmes and projects that make it a more appealing, welcoming, stronger and safer area.

www.aldgateconnect.london

Partner Listings



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About Bloomberg Connects

Bloomberg Connects hosts free digital guides from cultural organizations around the world. The app platform is part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' longstanding commitment to supporting digital innovation in the arts. Bloomberg Connects makes it easy to access and engage with arts and culture from mobile devices when visiting in person, or anytime from anywhere. With dynamic content exclusive to each partner organization, the app provides a range of features including video, audio, and text; expert commentary; and way-finding maps. Follow Bloomberg Connects on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for updates on new guide launches, exhibit highlights, and more.



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The group has made significant inroads into the UK property market in 2017 with three significant acquisitions in London: “One Kingdom Street”, an office building in London’s Paddington (January 2017), “The Leadenhall Building”, also known as the “Cheesegrater”, an iconic and award-winning building situated in the City, London’s prime financial and insurance district (May 2017), and “Nine Elms Square”, a distinctive development on London’s Southbank set to be transformed into an iconic residential and business quarter (August 2017). In 2017 C C Land also established a UK subsidiary office to advise and help fulfil the group’s aim of becoming a first class developer and landlord in the UK market.

In 2019 C C Land has teamed up with MARK (formerly Meyer Bergman) and committed £182m for the joint development of “Whiteleys”, a former shopping center, to deliver an enhanced retail experience, a sophisticated residential development and new leisure facilities to the heart of London Bayswater.



Hiscox's love of art gets into everything we do: not only do we insure it, we also collect, sponsor and promote it. We also insure homes and contents (including fine art, high-value cars, and other valuable assets and collectibles) and the liabilities and property risks of small professional businesses and events. For more information, visit www.hiscox.co.uk.

LONDON & ORIENTAL

London & Oriental LLP is a direct Property Investor and an Asset & Development Management company established in 1995. London & Oriental LLP specialise in the development and refurbishment of core London commercial and residential property. L&O are the property advisor to Lai Sun Development Company Ltd on their UK property portfolio including the buildings recently consented at 107, 106 and 100 Leadenhall Street. Lai Sun Development Ltd were established in Hong Kong in 1947 and were listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1972. The Group has since evolved into a diversified conglomerate and its principal activities include property development and investment in both Hong Kong and mainland China including hotel operation and management. London is now a core market for Lai Sun Development and its property subsidiary Frontier Dragon Limited.

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Source: Nuveen, 31 Dec 2021.



Tower 42 is the original skyscraper occupying a prime location in the City of London at 25, Old Broad St. and is the centrepiece of the Tower 42 Estate which totals 505,000 sq ft of offices and retail space. Designed by Richard Seifert for the National Westminster Bank, the Tower comprises 324,000 sq ft of high-quality offices. Arranged over 42 floors of 9,000 sq ft, each are divisible into 3 self-contained leaves of 3,000 sq ft, offering the most flexible leasing options in the City. The building was opened by the Queen in June 1981 and is now the home of over 50 international tenants from a wide range of businesses located in the heart of the City. <http://www.tower42.com/>

22 BISHOPSGATE

22 Bishopsgate is a building that has been designed to enable its residents to get the best out of their life at work. It will be home to a community of up to 12,000 people when built and occupied, and will include spaces that support and enhance working life, with floors dedicated to a market, a gym, a wellness centre and a business incubator. Art has been an integral part of the design and the building will incorporate a number of bespoke commissions as well as a changing programme of art and events at the ground floor. 22 Bishopsgate is being developed by AXA IM Alts with Lipton Rogers Developments as development partner.

About Lacuna

Lacuna is a creative agency led by Stella Ioannou, Artistic Director of Sculpture in the City. Stella has been involved with Sculpture in the City from its inception, tasked in November 2010 to showcase contemporary sculpture in the City Cluster. The original request for one work resulted in four sculptures being exhibited in June 2011 and the project has grown from strength to strength since then. A trained architect, Stella was determined from the beginning that each artwork is displayed in dialogue with the contemporary architecture and the unique urban environment. Stella is a member of the City of London Culture & Commerce Taskforce and a member of the Worshipful Company of Architects.

Among many, her professional posts include member of the City Arts Initiative, juror of international sculpture projects (POLDRA in Viseu, Portugal, 2016 - present; M17 in Kiev, Ukraine, 2018).

Lacuna is also curating the public art programme at Paddington Square, a new urban precinct developed by Sellar/GWD Properties and designed by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop (launching 2023).

<http://lacuna-projects.com>