

LightUpQueenStreet

Four artists' commissions in the City of London

26 Nov 2005 - 29 Jan 2006

Dusk until midnight



LightUpQueenStreet

This is the first winter of *Light Up Queen Street*, an annual programme of external lighting, video and sound commissions for the City of London. For this year artists Susan Collins, Tim Head, Mark Lewis and David Ward have created a series of new artworks inspired by the area and its street life and architecture.

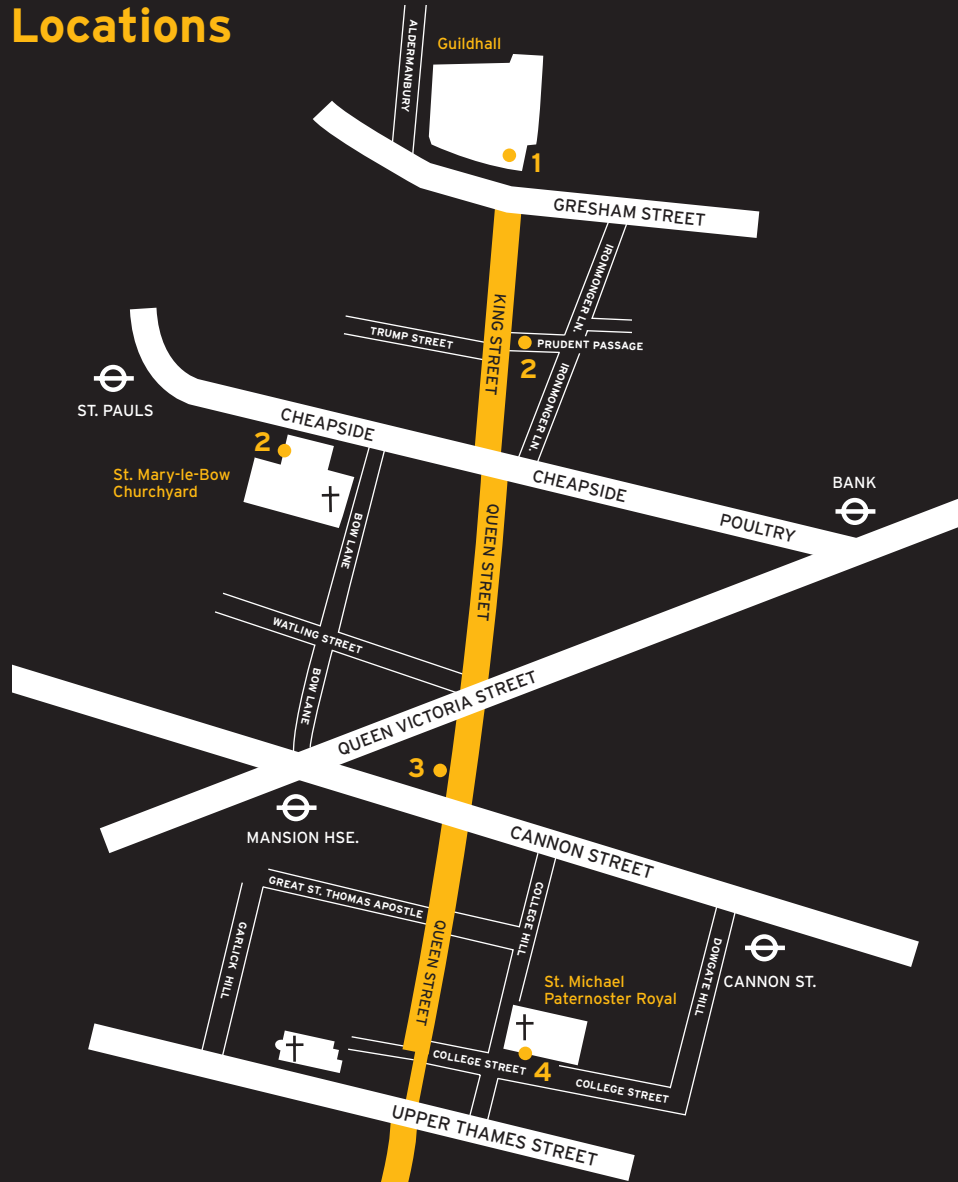
At the heart of this world financial centre Queen Street links the Guildhall, the oldest civic building in London, to the Thames. The area's contemporary identity overlays an accretion of prior histories and uses from Roman times to the recent day.

The artists selected for *Light Up Queen Street* re-imagine this urban setting, taking mundane and often ignored elements in the streetscape as their inspiration for new artworks in light, sound and film in unexpected locations. These works subtly map the area, creating moments and journeys in light.

Precedents for *Light Up Queen Street* include cities such as Turin and Lyon where artists are commissioned to re-light streets and buildings for the benefit of their residents and visitors in the darkest time of the year. This year's *Light Up Queen Street* programme follows the pilot project *Forest* by Maggie Ellenby last winter, a series of backlit shadow works in empty offices around the area.

Light Up Queen Street is part of the Corporation of London's long-term project to enhance the street scene in the Queen Street and King Street area. The Queen Street Pilot Project is the Corporation's flagship street scene enhancement scheme which aims to create a safe and pedestrian friendly environment for the workers, residents and visitors to the area.

Locations



1. Susan Collins
Underglow

Guildhall Yard entrance
(off Gresham Street)
and along King Street
and Queen Street

2. Mark Lewis
*Rush Hour, Morning &
Evening, Poultry, EC2*

Prudent Passage
(off King Street)
and St. Mary-le-Bow
Churchyard

3. Tim Head
Float

Albert Buildings'
façade on Queen
Street (junction with
Queen Victoria Street)

4. David Ward
Nocturne

St. Michael Paternoster
Royal/College Street

Susan Collins

Susan Collins *Underglow*

Locations: Guildhall Yard entrance (off Gresham Street)
and along King Street and Queen Street

Susan Collins works across a range of media, often in public and site-specific locations. For *Light Up Queen Street* she has focused on the hidden world beneath our feet, illuminating the network of drains and gullies which service the streets. Light glows and leaks through the grilles, gradually shifting through a spectra of intense colours, giving the impression that these vents breathe and pulse with alien life. Light is used to draw our imaginations into an underground world below street level, following the disappearing path of the city's waste. It is this edge between

the real and the imagined, the tangible and the fictitious, which fascinates Collins.

Susan Collins is known for her subtle interventions in public spaces. She exhibits nationally and internationally using a range of media including online commissions for Tate and Film and Video Umbrella. Permanent commissions include an award-winning collaboration with the architect Sarah Wigglesworth on a Classroom of the Future and an installation for the new University College London Hospital.



© Susan Collins (left and front cover)



© Mark Lewis

Mark Lewis

Mark Lewis *Rush Hour, Morning and Evening, Poultry, EC2*
Locations: St.Mary-le-Bow Churchyard and Prudent Passage
(off King Street)

Mark Lewis is an artist-filmmaker, and often focuses in his short and silent films on the descriptive and pictorial qualities of this medium. His film for Queen Street was shot in the local area on 35mm at the time of year when the sun creates long shadows. Pedestrians and passers-by became unknowing actors within this short narration of an everyday event - the morning and evening rush hour. The slow, silent movement of the camera and the inverted camera frame present an unfamiliar image of the area, and watching the film from the street, we as

the spectators might reflect on our own journeys through the urban street-grain.

Mark Lewis is a Canadian artist based in London who exhibits internationally and whose films are in major public and private collections. He has forthcoming solo shows at FACT, Liverpool and at the British Film Institute, London in 2006; this will be his first outdoor public art commission.

Tim Head

Tim Head *Float*

Location: Albert Buildings' façade on Queen Street
(junction with Queen Victoria Street)

Tim Head's work explores the innate qualities and forms of various media through which we observe and perceive our environment. For the last decade he has concentrated on working with digital media and electronic space. In *Float*, square pixels slowly rise and fall across the highly ornate stucco façade of the building, their paths and colours randomly generated by a real-time computer program. Never repeating the same scenario twice, this abstract moving picture echoes the movement of people and traffic and the exchange and flow of business, commerce and information in the City. As simple

blocks of form and colour which emit light, the pixels refer to the basic elements of representation used by the computer and television screen.

Tim Head has recently shown at Tate Britain and had a solo exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1992. His work is held in major museum collections around the world. He has exhibited nationally and internationally and his work, which includes digital animation and photography, often uses light, projection and colour.



Photo © Richard Davies



© David Ward
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David Ward

David Ward *Nocturne*

Location: St. Michael Paternoster Royal/College Street

David Ward has made a number of permanent and temporary artworks in the public domain which relate to different times of day. For *Nocturne* - a word describing certain forms of music and painting relating to evening or night - he combines birdsong with an image of the night sky. He transposes sounds of a summer woodland into the winter evenings in Whittington Gardens; for the adjacent St. Michael Paternoster Royal Church a large-scale image of the Pleiades star constellation is projected onto the south wall. Known as Dick Whittington's church it is now home to The Mission to Seafarers, also called the Flying Angel, which has inspired the illumination of

carvings of singing angels on the façade. Still an important navigational aid, stars are now hardly visible in the City, their brightness dimmed by light pollution. *Nocturne* has associations with a notional landscape predating the City and different passages of time: seasonal, temporal, historical and stellar.

David Ward has exhibited nationally and internationally and is also known for his work relating to architecture, including temporary installations at the Royal Festival Hall and Sir John Soane's Museum. He was visual artist for the Siobhan Davies Dance Company's most recent work *Bird Song*, performed at Sadler's Wells in 2005.

Further information

Queen Street Pilot Project

The Queen Street Pilot Project is the Corporation's flagship street scene enhancement scheme which aims to create a safe and pedestrian friendly environment for the workers, residents and visitors to the area. A number of streets and spaces in the Queen Street area have already been enhanced to create a simple and uncluttered public realm with a refined and tailored appearance. The Corporation believes that the creation of an attractive and user-friendly street scene is an important asset that adds to the value of the City as a place to live and work in.

Light Up Queen Street

The programme is commissioned by the Corporation of London, under the Queen Street Pilot Project, and curated by Modus Operandi Art Consultants with advice from lighting consultants, Sutton Vane Associates.

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Other attractions

These include Guildhall Art Gallery, St.Paul's Cathedral, Museum of London and the Barbican Centre.

Transport

The Queen Street area is well served by public transport. The nearest tubes are Bank, Mansion House, St.Paul's and Cannon Street.

modus operandi art consultants

With thanks to:

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The Mission to Seafarers at St. Michael Paternoster Royal
Stanhope Plc
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The Venerable Peter Delaney, Archdeacon of London
The Rector, the PCC and the staff at St. Mary-le-Bow Church



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street scene challenge