

December 9th 2020

Dear Resident,

I am writing to share some information with you about an exciting new temporary artwork to be installed near the East Cliff bandstand.

This is part of an ambitious project called 'Pioneering Places', funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England and delivered by Turner Contemporary.
<https://turnercontemporary.org/>

Since 2018, over 70 local children from St Laurence's Junior Academy and Ramsgate Arts Primary have been leading this project. Turner Contemporary staff have been working with them through regular attendance at their schools and the provision of weekly creative workshops.

The children have researched their town, and from this work identified the themes of Play and Playfulness, Caring and Modern Machines as being of main interest to them. These themes formed the basis of a brief and an open call for artists to respond to, which was advertised over the summer of 2019. Following this, the children interviewed, and then appointed Conrad Shawcross RA, a renowned British artist who has exhibited internationally.

<http://conradshawcross.com/>



Conrad Shawcross with Ramsgate primary school children / John Sainsbury Photography

The children and Shawcross have been working on developing the artwork, which following consultation with Thanet District Council and other groups including the Heritage Action Zone, Historic England and Kent County Council, is planned for installation in Spring 2021 and will be temporarily in place for 12 months.

Below is a render of the work in situ for your information. It comprises 4 structures, each a metal tripod supporting a coloured, perforated disc at the top. As well as the themes set out by the child led brief, the work also responds to the ideas of signalling and messages, with a concealed word hidden within the design, based on a coded alphabet devised by the children. The materials used reference those that can be found in the surrounding area of the Royal Harbour such as the steel used in shipbuilding.



Conrad Shawcross Studios



Conrad Shawcross Studios



CANTERBURY DOVER FOLKESTONE RAMSGATE



We hope the artwork will bring a new opportunity for residents and visitors to engage with Ramsgate, and to explore the beautiful setting of the East Cliff and the town beyond. The children are hugely excited about seeing the culmination of all their work being shared with Ramsgate residents, visitors and the wider public. We look forward to this celebration of what local children have been able to achieve when working together with a leading artist.

For further information on the project, please visit <http://culturalplacemaking.com/> or contact Jo Martin the Project Manager at jmartin@turnercontemporary.org

Yours sincerely
The Pioneering Places Project Team.

About Conrad Shawcross

Shawcross has completed a number of major public commissions across the world and, as well as being the youngest living member of the Royal Academy of Arts, was one of the first artists to be shown at Turner Contemporary when it opened in 2011. On the Pioneering Places project, he commented:

"I am really excited to be working with the young and brilliant minds of tomorrow to realise a new beacon of friendship and welcome to the Kent coast. The town of Ramsgate started as a port, and now we have a modern opportunity to continue this wonderful relationship to the sea and to arrival. Together we will create a new symbol for Ramsgate, learn some mechanics and the differing ways we used to communicate, and most importantly discover the huge power of cooperation and team work!"

Conrad Shawcross RA (b. 1977) is a British artist specialising in mechanical sculptures based on philosophical and scientific ideas, which often pay tribute to some of the great pioneers and analysts of our age. His works often appear to be useful, forcing the viewer to consider their purpose or function. Yet they remain illusive, denying any final definition to remain in the realm of the metaphysical and conceptual. Through their failure as systems and models, they succeed as art works, asking questions rather than answering them.

Shawcross has completed a number of major public commissions across the world, including Paradigm outside the Francis Crick Institute at UCL in London and the 18-metre tall Exploded Paradigm inside the atrium of the Comcast Technology Center in Philadelphia. He has exhibited at institutions across the world, including Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, the Museum of Old and New Art in Tasmania, Wadsworth Atheneum in Connecticut, USA, the National Gallery in London, and ARTMIA in Beijing. He is represented by Victoria Miro in London and Tucci Russo in Italy.



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About Pioneering Places: East Kent

Pioneering Places is part of the national Great Place Scheme and is funded by Arts Council England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Kent County Council, Thanet District Council, Canterbury Christ Church University, Artsworld, the South East Bridge organisation, and supported by Historic England. The commission for Ramsgate is one of four projects in East Kent and complemented by others in Canterbury, Dover and Folkestone, each being led by cultural organisations to encourage local people to shape the place where they live. Pioneering Places East Kent is led by Creative Folkestone.

All the projects are working with Artsworld's South East Bridge on a schools programme that will enable the young people taking part to achieve Arts Award accreditation and the participating schools receive Artsmark status. They will be creating a programme of consultation, activity and artwork commissions at Folkestone Gasworks, Ramsgate's Royal Harbour, The Kit in Canterbury, and Fort Burgoyne in Dover, as well as the development of a Research Knowledge Base that brings together research on cultural place-making, commissions articles and gathers and disseminates feedback from the four projects.

About Turner Contemporary and its work with Children and Young People

Turner Contemporary is one of the UK's leading art galleries, showcasing world class exhibitions. Since opening, Turner Contemporary has welcomed over 3.5million visits, put over £70million back into the Kent economy and connected with thousands of people from the local community. It is widely recognised as the catalyst for the regeneration of Margate and East Kent. The gallery has a track record of transforming lives and driving real positive impact through the arts.

Every year Turner Contemporary works with thousands of children and young people from Thanet and Kent. Its pioneering learning programme champions children's leadership through the arts, and it has to date worked directly with over 100,000 children and young people with a focus on inspiring change and raising aspirations through art and creativity.

2021 is Turner Contemporary's 10th Anniversary and this project is a key part of the gallery's activity and continued commitment to working with children and young people across Thanet as it marks 10 years since opening.

