

MODERN



Bankside News & Views | Summer Edition 2009

Green light for Transforming Tate Modern

Find out more!

Amazing oil tanks

Our special guests tell us what they think!

Green spaces

Inspired by textures from the River Thames!

MODERN
TATE

&



Blackfriars Settlement & Tate Modern

Blackfriars Settlement is delighted to have teamed up with Tate Modern for this edition of Tate Modern & You.

Blackfriars Settlement – originally The Women’s University Settlement – dates back to the late 19th century, when it was established in North Southwark. Since then, it has provided a wide range of services and opportunities to the local community. We serve everyone from children and young people to older people, people with mental difficulties, and those who need help developing basic literacy, language and IT skills.

The opening of Tate Modern in 2000 was a major event for Southwark. Blackfriars Settlement sees itself as a partner in a shared community, and we were excited by Tate’s potential to offer new experiences to our own groups. We have not been disappointed. From the beginning, Tate has involved local groups and individuals in its work. This has resulted in a strong partnership between our two organisations.

Our groups have benefited from many of Tate’s initiatives, such as the Seniors Programme,

and the Value of Art Project (an online resource for community group leaders). We’ve also participated in the Transforming Tate Modern Community Liaison Group.

Tate has used its skills and resources to support us in providing enterprise advice, goodies and freebies for many Settlement events. We, in turn, have supported Tate in the delivery of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for its staff.

Today, both organisations are developing for the future. Blackfriars Settlement is working on the redevelopment of the Rushworth Street site, and Tate is in the midst of its Transforming Tate Modern project.

For this edition of Tate Modern & You, some members of our groups have been visiting the gallery to find out what it has to offer, and how it will be changing. We hope that as both organisations continue to develop, there will be even more opportunities for partnership working. We can’t wait!

Julie Corbett-Bird
Director, Blackfriars Settlement



1.50pm About to set off from outside Blackfriars Settlement

START
Blackfriars Settlement



1.53pm Stopping to admire the green spaces



1.57pm A quick visit to the shop



2.00pm Here we are outside Tate Modern!

FINISH
Tate Modern

The 10-minute walk from Blackfriars Settlement to Tate Modern goes right through the heart of Southwark. One of Blackfriars' groups brought their cameras on a recent journey to the gallery – and here we show their photo map of the route.

Green light for Transforming Tate Modern



In the last edition of Tate Modern & You, we let you know about the exciting plans for Transforming Tate Modern.

We are delighted to report that Southwark Council granted planning permission for the revised plans in March.

Tate Modern 2 will have 11 levels, with new and exciting exhibition space and dedicated areas for learning. It will sit on the south side of the gallery, rising from the three existing underground oil tanks.

These will also be transformed into new gallery and performance spaces.

One of the big changes to the plan for the new building is the use of a perforated brick lattice exterior. This radical design builds on the feel of the original power station through the use of brick, but will create a 'glowing' effect at night when the interior is lit.

The new design gets a thumbs up from Bill Stewart, project co-ordinator at Blackfriars Settlement. "I really like this 'string vest'

rather than 'overcoat' approach to the brickwork," he says.

The new building is now more compact than in its original design, and the configuration inside is more flexible. It will include lots more space available to a range of different groups and audiences, including community groups. This will benefit local organisations such as Blackfriars Settlement.

"It will be exciting to have a fresh new gallery with improved community space," says Blackfriars' community engagement officer Sylvia Wachuku-King. "I hope artists take full ownership of the new space and bring in more local people to appreciate their talents."

The revised plans have also made it more environmentally friendly: the new building will use 54% less energy, and emit 44% less carbon than the limits set by building regulations.

We will update you on the progress of the project in each new edition of Tate Modern & You. Watch this space for future updates and your chance to get involved, and visit www.tate.org.uk/modern/transformingtate to find out more.

d-brief

d-brief is a new monthly by-subscription bulletin keeping you abreast of new developments in the Bankside area, and how they might affect your daily life and business. Visit www.betterbankside.co.uk to sign up!

FREE THINGS
FREE TO DO
AT TATE
MODERN

FAMILIES

START

Free fun activities for families (with children aged 5+) take place every weekend (11.00-5.00pm) as well as during school holidays (apart from Mondays). Match clues, spot art works, try the new Surrealist Challenge or create your own 'Thinking Hat' – these are just some of the fun things you can do!

TATE MODERN TRAILS

We've created some new paper-based activities (available from the information desks) for you to explore in the gallery! Children over 6 can grab a pencil and a friend and fill in the UNSketch book, while younger children will discover hidden areas and strange facts about Tate Modern with the Seen/Unseen trail.

Amazing oil tanks



You don't normally have to wear protective clothing at Tate Modern. So why were these local residents given hard hats and high-visibility jackets for a recent visit?

It was because this was no ordinary visit. Instead of exploring the public galleries or watching a film, this group were heading underground – into three huge empty oil tanks which were once part of the power station that became Tate Modern.

When the new extension is built, it will rise from these oil tanks. Two of the round chambers will become unique new spaces to match the spectacular Turbine Hall.

Two groups from Blackfriars Settlement were given special access to explore this exciting space before the transformation is begun. Some were already used to visiting Tate Modern for the Community Film Club, the Seniors Programme, or just to explore. But this tour gave a whole new

perspective, showing how Tate Modern will be changing.

When the new building is completed, there will be about 60% more space than before. This is good news for everyone.

There will be a greater variety of art on display, but also more space for community groups to take part in workshops, activities, or to hold meetings.

A visit to the oil tanks provoked lots of different reactions. We were interested to hear what our guests from Blackfriars Settlement thought...

It's a huge space. You can do almost anything here. I'd like to see shows, and a dancefloor. Maybe even a swimming pool!

MARGARET ASPEY

I like Tate Modern and it's interesting to see these oil tanks becoming part of the landscape. It feels like such a free space – the kind of place you want to make a noise in.

JULIA MINEEVA

I've been to see films at Tate Modern, but this was a very different visit. It would be interesting to have a model down there, showing what Tate Modern was like when it still operated as a power station.

MICHAEL STEWART

Tate Modern is a bit different to other museums and that's what I like. I hope they keep this raw feeling here, and use it for installations.

TIGHE O'CONNOR

I love art. I hope I'll still be around to come here when this is all finished. I'd like to see big sculptures down in these tanks.

BRIDIE COLLINS

Because the tanks are circular, I'd like to see a film projected on the walls, so you'd be completely surrounded by it.

JOE BRANDI



COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

Enjoy meeting other local people to watch a film connected to South London in comfortable cinema surroundings.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

A garden designed especially for people living within walking distance of the gallery in Southwark. Register now to become a free Friend of the garden.

ART INTO LIFE

Led by artist educators, these free gallery introductions for community groups are linked to the artworks on display.

To find out more about these programmes call Synthia on 020 7401 5176 or email synthia.griffin@tate.org.uk

YOUNG PEOPLE

RAW CANVAS

This youth-led programme at Tate Modern offers new perspectives on modern and contemporary art. Raw Canvas's projects run throughout the year, including art-related workshops, events and short courses for anyone aged 15-23, with the support of experienced artists and artist-educators.

To find out more about our upcoming summer events and courses visit www.tate.org.uk/youngtate/whatson.htm

Friends & Neighbours take tea at Tate

Do you have a garden of your own? If you live near Tate Modern, there's a green space especially for you – even if you didn't realise it.

Tucked away to the side of the gallery is a community garden, full of wildflowers, herbs and fruit trees. This special place was designed to be a dedicated area for local residents, especially those who lack outside space.

Eleven members of the Friends & Neighbours Club organised by Blackfriars Settlement held their coffee morning at the garden on a sunny spring day, and Peter Graal, community gardens facilitator at Bankside Open Spaces Trust shared the history of the space.

At one end of the garden, raised beds of herbs include everything from sage and thyme to mint and oregano – and if you need a sprig of something for your recipe, picking is allowed. The garden also features a fish pond, a mosaic-paved area designed in a labyrinth form, and benches inspired by dragonfly wings.

If you live in Southwark within walking distance of Tate Modern, you can become a free Friend of the garden by visiting www.tate.org.uk/modern/building/garden or call 020 7401 5176. Events are organised year-round, including planting days, volunteer sessions and parent/child workshops.



It's great that Tate Modern has made this garden for people in the area. Not many people have gardens round here, so it's nice to have somewhere to come.

JESSE CARMELO

The herbs are my favourite part of the garden. I especially love the mint. I certainly hope to come back here and pick some for my cooking.

DIANE TRESCHER

The blossom on the fruit trees is lovely. The pear tree is probably my favourite. I just have window boxes at home. It's such a good idea to have this here, and to give something back to the local community.

IRIS HAWKES



I didn't know about this garden. I love the fish, with all the different colours and patterns. I'm a bit surprised that an art gallery would have this, but it's a great idea.

DIESEL ROBERTS

TATE MODERN AND YOU

Bankside news and views is produced by Tate Modern, Bankside, London, SE1 9TG. The Regeneration & Community Partnerships team consists of Donald Hyslop, Alison Dexter & Synthia Griffin.

FOR FEEDBACK

Call Synthia on 020 7401 5176

Email community@tate.org.uk



Green spaces



KERI GERMAN

Transforming Tate Modern isn't just about the building itself – it's also about changing the whole area outside the gallery to make it more welcoming and attractive for everyone, whether they are visiting Tate or just passing by.

This outside work is being done by Vogt Landscape, a Swiss landscape architecture company with a London office just a stone's throw from Tate, at Borough Market.

Vogt's landscaping work ties in nicely with a youth volunteering project that Blackfriars Settlement has established with Bankside Open Spaces Trust, which maintains and promotes green spaces in Southwark.

For this issue of Tate Modern & You, we gave two young people from the youth project – Keri German, 21, and Yannick Steeves, 22 – a brief training session in interviewing and photography skills. They then met up with Florian Kühne from Vogt to find out more about his work on Transforming Tate Modern.



FLORIAN KÜHNE

To find out more about the green spaces in the area visit www.bost.org.uk or www.betterbankside.co.uk/urbanforest

INTERVIEW: KERI GERMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY: YANNICK STEEVES
ILLUSTRATION: ©HAYES DAVIDSON & HERZOG & DE MEURON

WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT?

One might say there are two parts to it: the landscape, and the architecture. The architecture part is thinking about spaces – the spaces in between buildings, for example. Then the landscaping part is about using plants, trees, walls, hedges and all sorts of other tools, with the overall aim of producing a 'space' for people.

HOW DO YOU BECOME A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT?

Landscape architecture is a broad discipline – our office employs botanists, biologists, architects and product designers, along with landscape architects. Those areas of work all come together, so there isn't just one way to work in landscape architecture.

I studied architecture at university, and then did two years of work experience. But you can also study landscape architecture in its own right. The internships aren't mandatory, but I think they're very important. I would encourage anyone who wants to get into this field to do that. After that I did a masters degree, so it took about six years in total.

WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND YOUR WORK ON TATE MODERN?

Our design ideas were inspired by walking around Tate and the Thames area. We wanted to draw on the theme of the river and its associated landscape and vegetation. So the material choices, for



example, might relate to the river. At the main entrance on the south side, a stepping landscape will have an organic, flowing shape that speaks of the river. We were also inspired by the stream of pedestrians around Tate. We hope that even if people are not actually going inside Tate Modern, they'll want to sit outside and have their lunch there.

WHAT STAGES DOES A PROJECT LIKE THIS GO THROUGH?

We name the stages starting with the letter A, which is abstract and conceptual, and move on to more detailed stages. We're now at stage E, which is where we check designs, and materials, and think about how we're going to co-ordinate with technical considerations.

WHY IS A SWISS COMPANY WORKING ON TATE MODERN?

Vogt worked with Tate Modern for the original building 10 years ago, because we were already working with the architects,

Herzog & de Meuron. So we had a history here, and then we successfully applied to do this work on Transforming Tate Modern.

WHEN WILL IT BE FINISHED?

The building is due to be finished in 2012, but the landscaping will be finished a bit later. It doesn't make sense to put trees in a building site. Hopefully we'll have done a lot by the time of the Olympics.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT LOCAL PEOPLE WILL LIKE THE RESULT?

We've held meetings with people who live around Tate. They visited our office, and we showed them our plans and models. They gave us useful feedback and we worked that into our designs, particularly in relation to the west side of the gallery. There's also a model of our plans inside Tate Modern. The project known as Transforming Tate Modern is about transforming the whole site, not just the building, and it will be quite a change. I hope people will be happy with it.

MODERN

TATE

Tate Local

**Tate Modern is changing.
We want you to be part of it.**

Free open day

Sunday 5 July 2009, 10.00–18.00

- Visit the amazing former oil tanks which are underground
- Take part in drop-in workshops for families
- Have a look round the free art collections inside
- Catch a glimpse of *Quicksilver* – a performance with the Cholmondeleys involving local people, mapping some of the new spaces that will be created

Come along to find out more about how the building is evolving as part of Transforming Tate Modern.

All events are free and all drop-in, apart from the oil tank tours which are bookable in advance (by Friday 3rd July).

**Contact: 07811 218 102 or
community@tate.org.uk**

**Open to all residents of Southwark & Lambeth
www.tate.org.uk/modern/transformingtmm**

**FREE
Exhibition
Ticket**

Sunday 5 July 2009

Bring this voucher with you to the exhibition entrance (Level 4, Tate Modern) to get FREE entry to the *Futurism* or *Per Kirkeby* exhibition.

Terms & conditions: Entrance subject to availability, only valid on the date stated, no photocopies will be accepted, the coupon has no monetary value. Admits one.