ARTS ON THE WATERWAYS

Waterways in England and Wales are special places where people, nature and the arts can flourish. Even in a busy city a canal or river is a place to slow down, to dream. They are elegant, contemplative and gritty, gliding through the UK’s most creative cities and outstanding countryside, as well as disadvantaged areas.

Initiated in 2012, the Arts on the Waterways programme connects the Canal & River Trust with the contemporary arts. The programme offers time and space to artists, producers and curators to create work and attract new audiences for both the waterways and the arts.

We work with a range of partners engaging actively with local communities. Waterways are becoming the longest cultural space in the UK, flowing into areas that the arts find difficult to access. Arts on the Waterways is made possible through strategic agreements with Arts Council England and the Arts Council of Wales.
BECAUSE THE CITY was in mourning a canal was created to run the population’s tears over the border.

*Untitled*
Luke Kennard

**FOREWORD**

Exceptional opportunities for young people were an important feature of the 2015 programme. Thirty students from Stratford in East London explored, rehearsed and performed Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* during a life-enhancing waterways journey to Stratford-upon-Avon. Clay Cargo was an inspirational mass sculpture event during which families and children built a giant clay sculpture collectively over one weekend by the Regent’s Canal, Kings Cross, London.

The Trust also supported The Line, London’s first dedicated modern and contemporary sculpture walk, linking the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with Greenwich Peninsula alongside the Lee Navigation.

Tim Eastop and Ed Fox, Canal & River Trust
Thirty young people from Chobham Academy worked with Rubbish Shakespeare Company and the Royal Shakespeare Company to rehearse *A Midsummer’s Night Dream* during the canal journey from their school in Stratford, East London to Stratford-upon-Avon. The journey culminated with brilliant performances in both Stratford-upon-Avon and at the academy’s new theatre.

Stratford 2 Stratford, Chobham Academy and Rubbish Shakespeare Company. Photo: Claire Risino
FLOATING CINEMA: ON TOUR

Having enjoyed success in London, the Floating Cinema embarked on its first tour out of the capital from Brentford Lock to Bristol and back. Artist-duo, Somewhere (Nina Pope and Karen Guthrie), curated a series of screenings of artists’ films and documentaries from national and local archives. Artist and musician, Yann Seznec, was commissioned to create a digital library of ‘forgotten sounds’ and musical responses, created with local communities along the route.

CLAY CARGO

2015 marked the finale of the Trust’s three-year collaboration with Clayground Collective. Inspired by Josiah Wedgwood, 5 tonne clay works were created with families at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham and Granary Square steps, King’s Cross, London, entitled ‘Monument to the City and its Anonymous Makers’. An exhibition of the three-year story of Clay Cargo took place at the British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke-on-Trent.
The Floating Cinema, Caen Hill, Lock a Thon, UP Projects
Photo: Hydar Dewachi
STAY

In partnership with the Landmark Trust to mark its 50th Anniversary, a new sculpture by Sir Antony Gormley was installed at Lowsonford Lock by the beautiful Lengthman’s Cottage on the South Stratford Canal. The life-size cast iron figure was carefully positioned to overlook boaters progressing through the lock.

THE LINE

The Line was launched as London’s first dedicated modern and contemporary sculpture walk, linking the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with Greenwich Peninsula. Open to all, the project offers an open-air gallery of loaned sculptural pieces by important artists including Abigail Fallis, Thomas J Price and Damien Hirst.

STAY, Lengthman’s Cottage, Warwickshire, Anthony Gormley
Photo: J Miller

THE LINE

DLA DL90, Bromley-by-Bow, Abigail Fallis
Photo: Matt Brown
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE WALES 2015
Partners      Glandŵr Cymru; Arts Council of Wales; Addo
Lead Artists  Mair Hughes
Waterways    Montgomery Canal

BLACK COUNTRY VOYAGES
Partners      Ikon Gallery
Lead Artists  Jacques Nimki
Waterways    New Main Line; Stourbridge Canal; Walsall Canal; Titford Canal; Wednesbury Old Canal; Wyrley & Essington Canal; Dudley Canal

CANAL LAUREATE
Partners      Poetry Society
Lead Artists  Jo Bell
Waterways    Various

CLAY CARGO
Partners      British Ceramics Biennial; Central St Martins; Argent Plc
Lead Artists  Clay Collective
Waterways    Grand Union Canal; Regent’s Canal

FLOATING CINEMA
Partners      UP Projects; British Film Institute; Arts Council England London Borough of Hounslow; Bristol City Council
Lead Artists  Somewhere; Yann Seznec
Waterways    Grand Union Canal; Kennet & Avon Canal

LEVERHULME TRUST RESIDENCY
Partners      National Waterways Museum
Lead Artists  Francesca Millican-Fraser
Waterways    Shropshire Union Canal

ROUGH FISH
Partners      Abandon Normal Devices
Lead Artists  TRES
Waterways    Manchester & Pennine Canal

STAY
Partners      Landmark Trust
Lead Artists  Sir Anthony Gormley
Waterways    South Stratford Canal

STRATFORD 2 STRATFORD
Partners      Chobham Academy; Royal Shakespeare Company
Lead Artists  Rubbish Shakespeare Company
Waterways    Regent’s Canal; Grand Union Canal; Kennet & Avon Canal

SUPER SLOW WAY
Partners      Arts Council England
Lead Artists  Various
Waterways    Leeds & Liverpool Canal

THE LINE
Partners      The Line
Lead Artists  Abigail Fallis; Damien Hirst; Thomas J Price
Waterways    Lee Navigation; River Thames; Royal Docks
The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. The Arts on the Waterways programme was initiated by the Trust in 2012 in partnership with Arts Council England, and more recently with strategic support from the Arts Council of Wales. We work with talented artists and leading arts institutions to inspire more people to experience and appreciate our waterways.

To learn more about the Canal & River Trust and how to donate please visit canalrivertrust.org.uk