



Canal &  
River Trust

# Arts on the Waterways

Spring 2017 Newsletter



*in locking, Kaffe Matthews  
Image: David Mould*

**The Canal & River Trust's Arts on the Waterways programme is transforming places and enriching lives. It provides artists with time and space along the waterways where they can slow down, research and make ambitious new work responding to important social, environmental and heritage questions. At the same time the programme supports the Trust in its mission to change public attitudes to its canals and rivers and engage with a wider diversity of people who live alongside them. We want the arts to help local people reimagine their waterways for the future**

This year the Trust is presenting a series of inspiring contemporary arts interventions as part of a season of open weekends to celebrate the current £43 million major works programme taking place across the country. On the bracing winter evening of 4 February, 350 people gathered for a sequence of immersive live performances by BAFTA-winning sonic artist, Kaffe Matthews, in the 14ft deep empty lock chamber at St Pancras Lock. Surprising sound worlds were created from recordings made within the Regent's Canal with projections of film footage from inside the lock. Our next open weekend event will fuse fire and sculpture and is planned for 11 March in the rural setting of Turnerwood Feeder Lock 38, Derbyshire (see below).





Mr Q Estion, Dave 'Stickman' Higgins  
Image: Davina Jackson

## pa-BOOM: Turnerwood Flight Night- time Transformation

To celebrate the lock repairs at Turnerwood Feeder Lock 38, acclaimed producer Bill Gee has curated a new intervention by West Yorkshire based *pa-BOOM*, using fire and sculptures to respond to the themes of engineering, water, fire and air. *pa-BOOM* are a company of artists, sculptors, designers and technicians who create sculpture and theatre animated by fire, light and pyrotechnics. They will be working with artists including spoken word poet Dave 'Stickman' Higgins as Mr Q Estion and Dirtmarket Dance to create performative moments within their fire-based response to the canal environment. The events will take place during 6.30–9pm on Saturday 11 March.

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*O.K. – The Musical* (Run-Through) at  
Arken Museum of Modern Art, Denmark  
Image: Christopher Kline

## Super Slow Way

The £2m arts programme continues with new series of socially engaged projects inspired by the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, funded by Arts Council England's Creative People & Places. Working with communities and businesses along the canal from Blackburn to Pendle, Super Slow Way is collaborating with local, national and international artists in a series of ambitious commissions and residencies. Upcoming highlights include *O.K. The Musical* in April, a co-commission with Tate Liverpool, which brings Berlin-based artist Christopher Kline to Lancashire and Liverpool to work with communities along the canal in producing a musical about his hometown Kinderhook, NY.

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*everything comes from the egg*,  
Trinity Buoy Wharf, Stephen Turner  
Image: Stephanie Rose Wood

## Everything Comes From The Egg

Artist Stephen Turner's extraordinary award-winning 'egg studio' is a temporary, energy efficient self-sustaining workspace from which to engage local people along the waterway corridor through art-making. *everything comes from the egg* is now touring to locations across England, most recently along the tidal section of the River Lee, London. 1,200 visited the exhibition and children's workshops at Trinity Buoy Wharf and the artist led a public walk along the River Lee and Bow Creek. The egg's next residency will take place alongside the Grand Union Canal, Milton Keynes with a public exhibition from 3 April to 14 May. You can read and contribute to the artists's ongoing blog at [www.eggman.site](http://www.eggman.site).

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*Salt Traders (Brixton Market),  
Katy Beinart & Rachel Beinart  
Image: Katy Beinart*

## The Ring

The Ring is a new programme of unexpected and inspiring artworks, events and performances at five gateway locations along 21 miles of fascinating and beautiful urban and rural waterways encircling Droitwich and Worcester. Curated by the Ring's Artistic Director, Cathy Mager, the full list of artists will be announced later this spring, when the website is due to launch. One of the central commissions will focus on the unique salt heritage of Droitwich and the significance of the waterways in the history of this ubiquitous mineral. Artist, Katy Beinart, who has family links to the salt industry, will be working closely with local people and organisations such as the Salt Museum to explore and understand the importance of salt to the community there. From her research Katy will develop a proposal for a new artwork, one of six new commissions which will be created for The Ring in 2018.



*Luke Kennard  
Image: Billie Charity-Prescott*

## Canal Poetry

Writing a blog incorporating incisive, satirical poems the Canal Laureate, Luke Kennard, reveals more of his humorous, surreal canal-side journeys. The poems and other strange observations from the narrow fluid road are regularly published on [www.waterlines.org.uk](http://www.waterlines.org.uk) and Twitter @canalpoetry. This March York-based poet, Robert Powell, and artist, Jake Attree, are delivering a river walk and workshop along the Ouse followed by a public presentation and reading at St Olave' Church's Hall, York. This event will be delivered in partnership with Canal Laureate partner, The Poetry Society and York Literature Festival.

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*Stilling the Flow, Jim Cooke  
Image: Jim Cooke*

## Stilling The Flow

For this new series of photographs, *Stilling The Flow*, artist, lecturer and boater, Jim Cooke has returned to the canals of his youth in his boat, employing large-format film cameras. His fascination with canals began while walking, fishing and bird-watching along the Coventry, Ashby and Oxford canals as a child, while the waterways were drifting towards the tail end of their industrial working lives. His photography embraces the canal-side's man-made landscape and embraces bankside vegetation, the surface flow and feeling of timelessness. The new body of work is about to tour nationally to the National Waterways Museum, Gloucester, the Phoenix, Brighton, Drill Hall Gallery, Portland, after opening at the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port (2 June-2 July) early this summer.

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Meanwhile Gardens and Grand Union Canal  
Image: Joe Coggins

## Meanwhile on the Union

The Trust is working with Modus Operandi (with support from a major donor) to commission an artist to respond to the Grand Union Canal and Meanwhile Gardens in Kensal Rise. The art work will explore the unique character of this canal-side garden, which is managed and maintained by local people through the Meanwhile Gardens Community Association, while highlighting the Trust's vital ecological and conservation work. Four leading artists have been selected to make site visits and propose a concept for the commission, and their ideas will be considered by the selection panel on 22 March.

[Details Forthcoming](#) →



Jasper Winn  
Image: Ralf Hodgson

## Writer-in-Residence: Jasper Winn

The Trust's inaugural writer-in-residence, Jasper Winn, is exploring the stories of the people he encounters living, visiting, working and volunteering along the canals and rivers, as he travels around by foot, bike, boat and canoe. Winn is an established writer, photographer, broadcaster and public speaker who will work with our publishing partner, Profile Books, to produce a new book about the waterways in Spring 2018. His latest article will be published in *Waterways World* this April. You can follow his latest writing about the canals on his blog, hosted on the Trust's website.

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Rachel Anderson & Cis O'Boyle  
on the *Selina Cooper*  
Image: Jill Jenning

## Idle Women: On The Water

*On the water* is a two-year tour of the canals in the North West of England and West Yorkshire, supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring fund. *Selina Cooper*, a bespoke narrowboat, serves as a resource and arts centre for women. In 2017 the project will host an artist-in-residence and present opportunities for women and girls to come aboard and join a creative process through residencies, events and talks. The boat will be moored from 8 March at Shepley Bridge Marina, Dewsbury, kicking off with series of events celebrating International Women's Day, in partnership with Creative Scene.

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Supported by  
The National Lottery  
through the Arts Council of Wales  
Celfio gyda gan

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Supported using public funding by  
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