

PRESS RELEASE
STEPHEN TURNER'S EXBURY EGG TOUR

April 2016 – November 2017

Super Slow Way • Trinity Buoy Wharf • Aspex & Gunwharf Quays • Jerwood Gallery



Stephen Turner's Exbury Egg on location at Finsley Gate, Burnley for Super Slow Way

Stephen Turner spends time in different locations, often working in abandoned out of the way places and making artworks which examine the often disconnected relationship between people, place and the rest of nature.

His Exbury Egg, made for the Beaulieu River on the Exbury Estate as a studio/home/resource for the artist, now tours England, reanimated as artwork. The Exbury Egg has evolved and changed though time; it is bleached by the sun, scoured by wind and rain and below the waterline has accrued algae, worm and barnacles; it is an evolving form that echoes changes to the surrounding landscape itself which turned the egg into a calendar of the seasons. Inside, Stephen's own journey is catalogued in collections of digital imagery, found objects, drawings, sculptures, and personal maps that are all derived from its particular estuary location. It's a capsule returned from a journey, accompanied by artworks made while in Exbury, and new works made in each new touring location.

The Exbury Egg tours to venues in England through 2016 and 2017, including: Finsley Gate Wharf, Burnley as part of Super Slow Way; Trinity Buoy Wharf, London - reaching out to communities along the River Lee; Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth (where The Exbury Egg will be located in Gunwharf Quays), and Jerwood Gallery, Hastings.

The tour reflects and develops upon Turner's original performative relationship with the Egg as a stage for events that embrace the concept that *everything comes from the egg* (*Ex Ovo Omnia*, William Harvey, 1651). It relocates the Egg within four different public visual arts contexts that...



further explores and allows Stephen to develop new artworks. New local contexts are explored by Stephen as he develops new works, and interacts with a wide range of people and communities along urban canals, within a shopping center and by the seaside.

As Stephen Turner has written: *“The ‘blueprint’ for the Egg, echoes its symbolism as a blueprint of life. Aesthetically perfect, eggs contain in embryo the essentials for new life. From primate to plankton they embody the idea of new birth and renewal, protection and fragility. In an urban 21st century world where we are increasingly disconnected from nature I wanted to use this ancient archetypal symbol to nurture re-enchantment with the natural world, as a step toward a sustainable future.”*

Stephen’s continuing on-line blog documenting and discussing the tour through each residency, his making of artwork, the people and places he encounters is www.eggman.site

The Exbury Egg tour is financially supported by Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust, Gunwharf Quays, Canal & River Trust, Super Slow Way, Jerwood Gallery and public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

The Exbury Egg was originally located for over twelve months on the Beaulieu River in the care of The Exbury Estate through 2013-14. It was designed to the artist’s original concept by PAD Studio in Lyminster, Hampshire and commissioned by Space Placemaking & Urban Design (SPUD).

Contact

Visit www.exburyeggtour.com for updates and further details.

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Editors Notes

• About Stephen Turner and the Exbury Egg Tour

The Exbury Egg will tour to venues in England through 2016 and 2017, including Super Slow Way along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Trinity Buoy Wharf, London, Aspex Gallery Portsmouth, and Jerwood Gallery, Hastings.

The tour develops and reflects upon Turner’s original performative relationship with the Egg as a stage for events that embrace the concept that everything comes from the egg (Ex Ovo Omnia, William Harvey 1651). It relocates the Egg within four different public visual arts contexts that further explores and develop artworks in new local contexts with a wide range of communities. Final dates for each residency and exhibition are currently being finalised and will be available as soon as possible.

The Exbury Egg Tour would not have been possible without the continuing support of Nicholas and Caroline de Rothschild and the Exbury Estate.

• **About Stephen Turner**

Stephen Turner's work often involves spending long periods in odd abandoned places, noting changes in the complex relationship between human-made and natural environments. His projects are rooted in research, which explores these themes in a variety of media. Disciplinary boundaries are challenged through a creative practice that involves sampling, collecting, annotating, editing and merging of environmental data with other more subjective investigations into the distinctiveness and particularity of place.

The Exbury Egg project builds upon the Stephen's previous work which includes installations for Turner Contemporary in Margate, Trinity Buoy Wharf in London, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art in Sunderland, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art in Northamptonshire and recently for The Bridge Guard, Residential Art & Science Centre on the Danube Bend in Štúrovo, Slovakia (2011-12). He was a part of the Third World Water Conference in Kyoto, Japan in 2003, exhibiting at the Honen- in Temple and later at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Toyota. Tree Rings for Stour Valley Arts studied the ecologies of different species of tree during a twelve-month residence at Kingswood, Kent in 2004. His Seafort Project from 2005 was reprised in the group exhibition 'Estuary' (2013) at the Museum of London Docklands

• **Super Slow Way**

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal powered the Industrial Revolution in Pennine Lancashire. 200 years on from the canal's birth, Super Slow Way aims to stage a new, creative revolution powered by art and people. Super Slow Way is a major arts commissioning programme established to create a lasting legacy of arts and culture in Pennine Lancashire. Working with communities along the canal from Blackburn to Pendle, Super Slow Way is delivering an ambitious programme comprised of local, national and international artists in a series of commissioned and community-based residencies. It will bring art to a space where time slows down, to look afresh at how people live their fast-paced lives and how they relate to their environment, neighbourhoods and to each other. Super Slow Way is funded by Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme, initiated and funded by Arts Council England. Super Slow Way is a partnership made up of the Canal & River Trust, Newground, local authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn and Arts Partnership Pennine Lancashire (APPL). www.superslowway.org.uk

• **Trinity Buoy Wharf**

In 1998, Trinity Buoy Wharf was an empty, derelict site. Now it is a thriving centre for the arts and creative industries with a community of over 570 people enjoying the unique riverside location. Free from overdevelopment, the site's fascinating history can still be seen in the buildings, installations and residents such as the Lightship LV95 is are moored here along with London's only lighthouse, home to Jem Finer's sound installation Longplayer. With careful regeneration, Trinity Buoy Wharf has kept its character whilst offering amenities such as studio and gallery space, a pier, the base for the Royal Drawing School Foundation year, rehearsal rooms and two dining options in the form of Bow Creek Café and Fat Boys Diner and 5 of the hugely sustainable

Container City buildings. www.trinitybuoywharf.com

• **Aspex**

Aspex exists to support emerging artists, expose the creative process, and engage new audiences with visual art. We achieve this by delivering an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions, off-site projects and participation events. Our aim is to make the appreciation and creation of art a more inclusive activity. It is an ethos we have been adhering to for 35 years. We have a track record of supporting sensational artists at the embryonic stages of their careers. Artists such as Mona Hatoum, Richard Wilson and Susan Collis, all now internationally-acclaimed, received support from Aspex which helped establish them as household names. Today, we continue to offer the next generation of contemporary visual artists a platform from which to launch their careers. Key projects like EMERGENCY, our open submission biennial exhibition, put new work by new artists centre-stage. www.aspex.org.uk

• **Gunwharf Quays**

Set on Portsmouth's historical waterfront, Gunwharf Quays is the South's leading premium retail outlet boasting over 90 outlet stores, offering up to 60% discount on regular retail prices, and over 30 restaurants, bars and coffee shops featuring a variety of cuisines. Gunwharf Quays is a unique and vibrant shopping and leisure destination and is the ideal place to explore, shop and dine and take in the exciting sights of this coastal city. www.gunwharf-quays.com

• **Jerwood Gallery**

Opened in March 2012, the award-winning Jerwood Gallery sits next to the fishing beach in Hastings' historic Old Town. The gallery is home to the Jerwood Collection of 20th and 21st century art and a varied temporary exhibition programme showcasing the best of modern and contemporary British art. Recent exhibitions have included Jake and Dinos Chapman, Rachel Howard, Chantal Joffe and John Bratby. The Jerwood Collection's main focus is from the First World War to the 1960s. Highlights include works by some of the great British artists of the previous century, including Sir Stanley Spencer, LS Lowry, Walter Sickert and Augustus John. The collection, which continues to grow, also features contemporary works by artists including Rose Wylie, Maggie Hambling and Jeffery Camp. www.jerwoodgallery.org

• **Canal & River Trust**

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. We're proud of our rivers and canals as unique places where you can step off everyday life onto the towpath and breathe. 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. The Trust works with talented artists and leading arts institutions that are based near waterways to inspire more people to experience and appreciate them.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/waterway-arts/2015-programme