

Stack is a temporary sculpture installation by internationally renowned artist Phyllida Barlow CBE RA at Highgate Cemetery in July and August 2021.

The project is commissioned by Studio Voltaire, a leading not-for-profit arts organisation.

For more than 50 years, British artist Phyllida Barlow CBE RA has worked with inexpensive, everyday materials to create large sculptural installations such as timber, metal, polystyrene, canvas, cardboard and rope. Barlow enjoys juxtaposing familiar objects with abstract sculptural forms, playfully challenging audiences to explore their own understanding of sculpture.

Siting Barlow's celebrated work in the West Cemetery Courtyard will bring audiences into exciting and unexpected dialogues with a landmark site. Famed for its 'special atmosphere', Highgate Cemetery has a secluded and evocative landscape, and attracts visitors worldwide.

Barlow's sculpture, which explores transformation and monumentality, has been specifically created in relation to the history and context of the cemetery. Her sculpture is a contemplative response to the funerary architecture of the site, and is sympathetic to the cemetery as a site of reflection and public interest.

The exhibition is an important opportunity to provide audiences with extraordinary encounters with art and culture in the public realm. Arts in public spaces are proven to have community benefit, contributing to a sense of civic pride and wellbeing. This project has many benefits to the local community, both in Highgate and the wider Camden Borough.

The commission will:

- Bring high-quality arts commissioning to the borough. This exhibition brings an ambitious temporary public exhibition by an internationally celebrated artist to Highgate.
- Contribute to the local area's cultural offer to residents, and highlight Camden as a cultural destination.
- Increase opportunities for engagement with the arts. This commission will allow residents, neighbours and visitors to have free and direct access to world class public art, increasing accessibility and removing some of the barriers to engagement.
 Interpretative talks, tours and educational resources will provide further ways of engaging with the exhibition.
- Provide opportunities to experience cultural activity in the outdoors. We expect there to be appetite for outdoors cultural activity as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The Site

The Site is the Courtyard to the West Cemetery at Highgate Cemetery. The Site is large and open-aired, with a cobbled surface. Existing architectural structures in the surrounding area to the Site are the Gatehouse and Chapels of Highgate Cemetery, which form the main public entranceway to the West Cemetery, and the Colonnade.

The Artwork is free standing and is not fixed to, nor otherwise involves the fabric of the immediate or wider Site. The Artwork does not block or impede access to the wider Site or any pathways. The Site is secured outside of public opening hours.

Use of the Site has the permission and full support of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust.





Site Images

Fact Sheet

Proposed dates:

Installation 5–16 July 2021

Public Dates 17 July-29 August

Dismantling complete by 6 September

Opening Hours:

The exhibition is open to the public in accordance with Highgate Cemetery's public opening hours. Regular hours are 10am to 5pm everyday. TBC in line with covid restrictions.

Access:

Visitors will not be allowed to climb, walk on or otherwise interact with the sculpture. The proposed artwork will be invigilated during public opening hours and will be free of charge to visit.

The Sculpture

The sculpture is formed around a freestanding steel frame, which is weighted by ballast. Consulting Structural Engineer: Structure Workshop

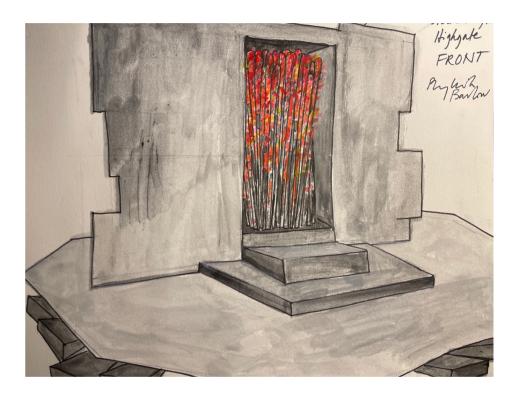
Material finishes:

A column of timber poles, bound with scrim dipped in cement and poly cotton, is fixed within a wider structure which reflects on the forms and character of the surrounding monuments. The structure is clad in plywood sheets, rendered with a cosmetic coloured-flecked cement screed. These are material finishes frequently used by the artist, and appear throughout recent works.

Artist's impressions: not to scale.







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About Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not–for–profit arts organisations. Our pioneering public programmes of exhibitions, participation and education projects, live events and off–site commissions have gained an international reputation.

Studio Voltaire has an outstanding track record of supporting artists at a pivotal stage in their careers. We champion emerging and under represented artists, placing great emphasis on risk-taking and experimentation, allowing us to offer an alternative and agenda-setting view of contemporary art. Many of our commissions are an artist's first solo exhibition in London.

Studio Voltaire commissions a wide range of ongoing and collaborative projects. We work with artists, organisations, schools, colleges and communities to create contexts for people to share and collaborate, while also supporting critical engagement and lifelong learning. We often work beyond the walls of the gallery, initiating projects in the public realm and supporting artists to work in unconventional spaces and in new social and cultural contexts.

Commissioned artists and solo presentations have included:

Aaron Angell, Nairy Baghramian, Phyllida Barlow, Judith Bernstein, Monster Chetwynd, Anne Collier, Thea Djordjadze, Nicole Eisenman, Sunil Gupta, Sharon Hayes, Sanya Kantarovsky, Nnena Kalu, Ella Kruglyanskaya, Dawn Mellor, Cookie Mueller & Vittorio Scarpati, Henrik Olesen, The Neo Naturists, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, Rehana Zaman, Richard Slee, Jo Spence and Cathy Wilkes.

Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

www.studiovoltaire.org

About the artist

Phyllida Barlow CBE RA (born Newcastle upon Tyne, 1944) lives and works in London.

In 2011, Barlow became a Royal Academician. In 2014, she was commissioned by the Tate Britain to create a new work for their Duveen Galleries. In 2015 she was awarded a CBE for her services to the arts. In 2016, she was nominated for the inaugural Hepworth Prize. In 2017, she was chosen to represent the United Kingdom at the Venice Biennale.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *cul-de-sac*, Royal Academy, London (2019); *Phyllida Barlow: prop*, High Line Art, New York; *Phyllida Barlow: folly*, La Biennale di Venezia, British Pavilion, Venice IT; *ARTIST ROOMS: Phyllida Barlow*, Turner Contemporary, Margate UK (2017); *tryst*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas TX; *Duveen Commission: Phyllida Barlow. dock*, Tate Britain, London (2014); and *siege*, New Museum, New York (2012).











