

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCE ROYAL ACADEMICIAN RON ARAD AS THE SECOND ARTIST FOR THE TERRACE WIRES COMMISSION



The Royal Academy of Arts announced today that Royal Academician Ron Arad has been selected as the second artist to be commissioned for Terrace Wires at St Pancras International, the station's public commissioning programme for new artwork by leading international artists. *Thought of Train of Thought* will be unveiled at St Pancras International station on the morning of **7 July 2016**.

This is the second instalment of a four year partnership between HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International station) and the Royal Academy for the station's public sculpture series, following Cornelia Parker RA's *One More Time* in 2015. This year marks the fourth year of the Terrace Wires commission at the station.

Ron Arad RA said, 'I want this piece to enjoy the freedom from the static meeting of gravity and ground. Yet in a place like St Pancras – rich in architectural details, busy with movement of people, trains, billboards and other stimuli – the piece needs to be minimal, monolithic and calm but with effective visibility and impact.'

Terrace Wires is a highly visible programme for public art, suspended from St Pancras International's iconic Barlow Shed roof. It offers 48 million travellers each year the chance to experience the latest contemporary art as they pass through the station. This partnership between HS1 Ltd. and the Royal Academy of Arts builds on the shared belief in the values of bringing art to the community whilst celebrating the approach in 2018 of both the Royal Academy's 250th anniversary and the 150th anniversary of St Pancras station. The commission is the Royal Academy's only external public sculpture series in London and is free to view.

Tim Marlow, Artistic Director at the Royal Academy of Arts, said: 'Ron Arad's work has always blurred the boundaries between architecture, sculpture, engineering and design which is why both the RA and HS1 are so excited by the project he has developed. *Thought of Train of Thought* will reflect - in every sense of the word - on one of London's great urban structures. The experience should be both spectacular and thought provoking and offer the visitor a genuinely new perspective on a national landmark.'

Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director at HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International), said: 'Following the positive reception of Cornelia Parker's piece in 2015, we look forward to a second year of working alongside the Royal Academy of Arts to continue developing the profile of Terrace Wires as a public art space. As an experimental designer, Ron Arad's installation will offer something completely different to its predecessors and we hope that it will encourage St Pancras International's visitors to stop and look up whilst at the station.'

Terrace Wires in the Community Project

Ahead of the unveiling, entry will open for the Terrace Wires in the Community project, a competition encouraging local pupils to show their creativity by designing artwork inspired by the themes of Ron Arad's installation *Thought of Train of Thought*. The winning piece will be selected by Ron Arad and Nicola Shaw before going on display on the St Pancras website. Its creator will receive a special prize. Regular competition updates will be available at www.terracewires.com.

Notes to editors

Thought of Train of Thought was selected by the Terrace Wires judging panel, whose members include:

- Nigel Carrington, Vice-Chancellor at University of the Arts London
- Richard Cook, Editorial Director at Wallpaper*
- Evan Davis, journalist and author
- Chris Wainwright, Pro-Vice Chancellor at University of the Arts London and Head of Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Arts Colleges
- Nicola Shaw, Chief Executive Officer at HS1 Ltd.

About Ron Arad RA

Born in Tel Aviv in 1951, educated at the Jerusalem Academy of Art and later at the Architectural Association in London, Ron Arad co-founded with Caroline Thorman the design and production studio One Off in 1981 and later, in 1989, Ron Arad Associates architecture and design practice. In 2008 Ron Arad Architects was established alongside Ron Arad Associates. From 1994 to 1999 he established the Ron Arad Studio, design and production unit in Como, Italy. Arad was awarded the Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in recognition of his 'sustained excellence in aesthetic and efficient design for industry' in 2002, and was awarded the London Design Medal in 2011. He was professor of Design at the *Hochschule* in Vienna from 1994 to 1997, and later Professor of Design Products at the Royal College of Art in London up until 2009, when he was made Professor Emeritus. In 2013 he was elected as a Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Arad's constant experimentation with the possibilities of materials such as steel, aluminium or polyamide and his radical re-conception of the form and structure of furniture has put him at the forefront of contemporary design. Arad has designed a number of Public Art pieces, including the *Vortex* in Seoul, Korea, the *Kesher Sculpture* at Tel Aviv University, *Evergreen* in Tokyo, and *Curtain Call* for Roundhouse, London. As part of the Summer Exhibition 2016, Arad will create a new site-specific installation, *Spyre*, for the RA Courtyard.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III of England in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programmes promote the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme.

About HS1 Ltd.

High Speed 1 is the railway between St Pancras in London and the Channel Tunnel and connects with the international high speed routes between London and Paris, and London and Brussels. High speed domestic trains also use the railway, providing a high quality fast commuter service between London and Kent. The railway is also capable of carrying freight traffic. HS1 Ltd. is the owner of the railway and the stations along the route, including the magnificently refurbished St Pancras International. HS1 Ltd. is jointly owned by Borealis Infrastructure and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, two Canadian pension funds.

About St Pancras International Station

Designed by William Barlow, St Pancras International originally opened in 1868 and for its time was an engineering marvel - it was the largest enclosed space in the world and provided the grandest entrance into London. The station has become a destination in its own right, boasting more shops than any other railway station, its own fresh produce market, the longest Champagne Bar in Europe and a Gastro Pub. This year will see St Pancras International's retail offering develop with a number of significant new store openings across tech, fashion and food & beverage. St Pancras International launched the StP London app in January 2015, providing users with exclusive retail offers, travel updates and historical information as well as details on in-station events. The app can be downloaded via iTunes or the Google Play Store.

About Terrace Wires

St Pancras International has been home to some of the most discussed pieces of public art – from the Olympic Rings to *Cloud: Meteoros* and *Chromolocomotion*. With up to one million visitors every week, we have the opportunity to treat commuters to something exciting, intriguing and new. The rings were a symbol of hope, competition and excellence. The space proved there and then to be the perfect canvas, and as a result, we now have a momentous cultural and timely gap to fill. Situated under the stunning Grade 1 listed Barlow Shed, Terrace Wires throws a spotlight on world-class public art. It truly is one of the first London sights to welcome Eurostar travellers as they step off the train. In 2015 Cornelia Parker RA presented *One More Time*, 2015, and was the first artist selected in the four year partnership between the Royal Academy of Arts and HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International station) to develop the Terrace Wires programme.

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