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Victoria Embankment Foreshore

Victoria Embankment For

VICTORIA EMBANKMENT FORESHORE HOARDING COMMISSION

About the artist:

Simon Roberts

Simon Roberts (b.1974) is a British photographer based in Brighton, UK. He originally studied a BA Hons Degree in Human Geography at the University of Sheffield, which has informed much of his subsequent photographic practice. Often employing expansive landscape photographs, his approach is one of creating wide-ranging surveys of our time, which communicate on important social, economic and political issues.

Roberts has published three critically acclaimed monographs, *Motherland* (Chris Boot, 2007), *We English* (Chris Boot, 2009) and *Pierdom* (Dewi Lewis Publishing, 2013) that formed the basis of a major national and international touring solo show in 2014-16. He has exhibited extensively internationally, and his photographs reside in major public and private collections, including the Deutsche Börse Art Collection and Wilson Centre for Photography. His awards include the Vic Odden Award (2007) and bursaries from the National Media Museum (2007), John Kobal Foundation (2008). www.simoncroberts.com



SIMON ROBERTS

'The Thames Wunderkammer: Tales from Victoria Embankment in Two Parts' An artwork created by Simon Roberts and commissioned by Tideway, 2017

About the work:

Responding to the rich heritage of the Victoria Embankment, Simon Roberts has created a metaphorical 'cabinet of curiosities' along two 25-metre foreshore hoardings.

Roberts describes his approach as an 'aesthetic excavation of the area', creating an artwork that reflects the literal and metaphorical layering of the landscape, in which objects from the past and present are juxtaposed to evoke new meanings. Monumental statues are placed alongside items that are more ordinary; diverse elements, both man-made and natural, co-exist in new ways. All these components symbolise the landscape's complex history, culture, geology, and development.





All photographs © Simon Roberts, 2017

His artwork includes dramatic photographs of local landmarks and statuary such as Cleopatra's Needle and the London Sphinx, precious objects from the Museum of London and the Imperial War Museum, historical illustrations e.g. 'Monster Soup commonly called Thames Water' 1828 by William Heath; as well as objects he found from mudlarking on the nearby foreshore.





All photographs © Simon Roberts, 2017

Feedback from passers-by includes: **“The work makes me think about variety, the diversity and richness of London. We walk on history and this work uncovers some of it.”** ... **“Very intriguing. Makes you curious.”** Visitors to the artist’s talk were delighted by the richness of the historical information brought to light by the artwork, which Tideway will make accessible on their website in due course.

Credits

Simon Roberts, Archival images: © Copyright Museum of London; Courtesy the Trustees of the British Museum; Wellcome Library, London; © Imperial War Museums (COM 548); Courtesy the Parliamentary Archives, London.



www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london

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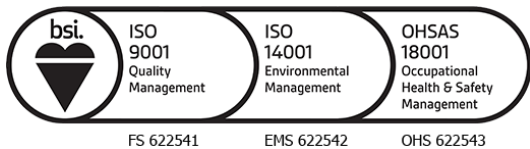
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