

**THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL UNVEIL MONUMENTAL MECHANICAL WORK BY CONRAD SHAWCROSS RA**

The Royal Academy of Arts today revealed a major site-specific installation, *The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, 2017, by Royal Academician Conrad Shawcross for Terrace Wires, the station's public commissioning programme for new artwork by leading international artists.

This is the third instalment of a four-year partnership between HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International) and the Royal Academy for the station's public sculpture series, following Cornelia Parker RA's *One More Time* in 2015 and Ron Arad RA's *Thought of Train of Thought* in 2016. This year marks the fifth year of the Terrace Wires commission at the station.

*The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, 2017, will be Conrad Shawcross's most ambitious mechanical work to date, stretching out to a 16m diameter as it methodically turns above the station concourse. Consisting of three articulated arms driven by a complex sequence of gears, the mechanism drives three 'optic sails' which expand and contract in an orbit from the centre, at which point they eclipse each other where they form a complex pattern of interference.

**Conrad Shawcross RA, said:** "The machine is driven by a precise set of gears taken from fundamental ratios within harmonics that culminate in an exact and controlled unified movement of its parts. I am convinced that meaning lies within the abstract interplay of its components together with their vectors and accelerations. The machine is elusive; it is constantly shifting in an undefinable state of change and constancy that echoes the very contradictory stuff that we are made of."

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 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Pancras station. The commission is the Royal Academy's only external public sculpture series in London and is free to view.

*The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)* will be at St Pancras International station until December 2017.

**Tim Marlow, Artistic Director at the Royal Academy of Arts, said:** "The idea of a celebration of mechanics and engineering, not to mention a labour of love, being staged in the airy magnificence of

St Pancras is mouth-watering. Conrad Shawcross has established himself as one of the most accomplished and ambitious artists of his generation across the world and I'm relishing the prospect of his RA collaboration with HS1."

**Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director at HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International), said:** "We look forward to welcoming *The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, 2017 by Conrad Shawcross to the station, which will be our second dynamic installation following the mesmerising *Thought Train of Thought* by Ron Arad RA in 2016. This art work is set to explore the complexity and harmony of orbital movement, intertwining art with mechanics and engineering. It is a familiar concept for St Pancras International as both an infrastructure hub and a stunning, architectural landmark. We are excited by the prospect of this work continuing to build the profile of Terrace Wires and St Pancras as a great place for public art."

### **Terrace Wires in the Community Project**

To celebrate the unveiling of the new Terrace Wires installation, High Speed 1 Ltd. will be opening its 'Terrace Wires in the Community' project. This competition aims to encourage pupils from local schools to showcase their creativity by designing artwork inspired by the themes of *The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, 2017, by this year's artist Conrad Shawcross. The winning piece will be selected by Conrad Shawcross and Wendy Spinks before going on display on the St Pancras website and the winner will also get the chance to meet Conrad Shawcross.

### **Notes to editors**

*The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, 2017, 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
- Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director at HS1 Ltd.

### **About Conrad Shawcross RA**

Conrad Shawcross (b. 1977) explores subjects that lie on the borders of geometry and philosophy, physics and metaphysics. In April 2016, Shawcross created *Paradigm*, a 14m high permanent work for the Francis Crick Institute in the heart of King's Cross, London, and during the summer, *The Optic Cloak*, a major architectural intervention for the Greenwich Peninsula, was unveiled. In 2015 the artist completed major, site-specific works for Dulwich Park (*Three Perpetual Chords*), the Royal Academy of Arts courtyard (*The Dappled Light of the Sun*), and Chatsworth House (*Beyond Limits*). Shawcross has had solo presentations at institutions including New Art Centre, UK (2015); Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (2015); Careyes Foundation, Mexico (2014); The Vinyl Factory, London (2014); ARTMIA Foundation, Beijing (2014); Roundhouse, London (2013); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); MUDAM, Luxembourg (2012); Science Museum, London (2011 - 2012); and Turner Contemporary, Margate (2011). His work has been exhibited at galleries including the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2014 and 2015); MONA, Tasmania (2014 and 2011); Grand Palais, Paris (2013); and Hayward Gallery, London (2013).

### **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 250<sup>th</sup> 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 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 Academics 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 technology, fashion and food & beverage.

### **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. 2015 was the start of a four year partnership between the Royal Academy of Arts and HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International station) to develop the Terrace Wires programme. The first Royal Academician in the partnership to present an installation for Terrace Wires was Cornelia Parker RA with *One More Time*, 2015, followed by Ron Arad RA in 2016 who presented *Thought of Train of Thought*, 2016.

## **Social Media**

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#TerraceWires

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