



THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL STATION UNVEIL MONUMENTAL INSTALLATION BY RON ARAD RA



The Royal Academy of Arts and St Pancras International station today revealed a major site-specific installation, *Thought of Train of Thought*, 2016, by Royal Academician Ron Arad for Terrace Wires, the station's public commissioning programme for new artwork by leading international artists.

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.

Suspended on wires from St Pancras International's Grade 1 listed Barlow Shed roof, *Thought of Train of Thought*, comprises one 18 metre twisted blade made of aluminium which rotates slowly creating an optical illusion of wave-like movement. Ron Arad RA said, 'The rotation and the horizontal movement take turns in the viewers' perception as the readings of the object alternate and the hypnotic effect is greater than the means, so will hopefully be the delight of the public at St Pancras.'

Arad has designed a number of public art works including the *Vortex* in Seoul, South Korea, the *Keshar Sculpture* at Tel Aviv University, Israel, *Evergreen* in Tokyo, Japan, and *Curtain Call* for the Roundhouse, London. As part of the Summer Exhibition 2016, Arad has created a new work, *Spyre*, for the RA Courtyard until 21 August.

Terrace Wires is a highly visible programme for public art. 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.

Thought of Train of Thought will be at St Pancras International station until January 2017. The work was fabricated by CIG Architecture based in Groningen in the Netherlands.

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:

"Terrace Wires is about encouraging people visiting St Pancras to take a moment and look up. As the first moving installation commissioned for the space, we are excited to see how the public react and engage with this captivating piece. Following last year's success, we are pleased to be celebrating a second year of our partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts and thank Ron Arad for designing a unique and impressive sculpture for our thousands of daily commuters and visitors to enjoy."

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 Art 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 has created a new site-specific installation, *Spyre*, for the RA Courtyard until 21 August. In June 2016, Arad received the Compasso d'Oro Award in Milan.

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. For more information on the RA visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video

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 including products in technology, 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 finest and most discussed pieces of public art – from the Olympic Rings to *Cloud: Meteoros*, *Chromolocomotion* and *One More Time*. 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. Terrace Wires, together with the Fourth Plinth at Trafalgar Square and other rotational art spaces in London, is a gateway to intrigue and surprise. This year's installation is *Thought of Train of Thought* by Ron Arad RA.

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