



ROYAL ACADEMICIAN CONRAD SHAWCROSS ANNOUNCED AS THE 2017 ARTIST FOR THE TERRACE WIRES COMMISSION

HS1 Ltd. (owners of St Pancras International) and the Royal Academy of Arts announced today that Royal Academician Conrad Shawcross, has been selected as the next artist to be commissioned for St Pancras International's Terrace Wires – the station's public commissioning programme for new artwork by leading international artists. Shawcross' *The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue)*, 2017, will be unveiled at St Pancras International station on the morning of **Thursday 22 June 2017**.

This year marks the fifth year of the Terrace Wires commission at St Pancras and is the third year of the station's public sculpture series in partnership with the Royal Academy, which has so far included artworks from Cornelia Parker RA with *One More Time* in 2015 and Ron Arad RA's *Thought of Train of Thought* in 2016.

The Interpretation of Movement (a 9:8 in blue), 2017, will be Conrad Shawcross' largest 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, where they eclipse each other to create a shimmering optical effect.

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. The commission is the Royal Academy's only external public sculpture series in London and is free to view.

Conrad Shawcross 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 somehow convinced that meaning lies in this abstract interplay of its components together with their vectors and accelerations, and yet, I cannot honestly articulate what this is. The machine eludes me and has always done so. But it is in this constantly shifting, undefinable state of change and constancy that it seems to echo the very contradictory stuff that we are made of."

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 piece 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 piece continuing to build the profile of Terrace Wires and St Pancras as a great place for public art.'

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."

ENDS

For further press information, please contact the St Pancras International press office on 020 7479 0910 or email HS1@clarioncomms.co.uk

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, Former 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 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*). 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. 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 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 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 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 many great shops across fashion and gifting, 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

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook: /StPancrasInt and /royalacademy

Instagram: @StPancrasInternational and @royalacademyarts

Twitter: @StPancrasInt and @royalacademy

#TerraceWires