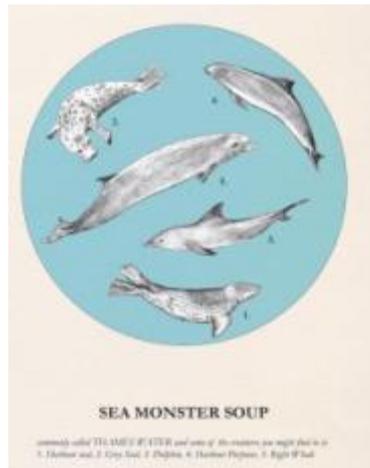


Plastic Propaganda

...one ethos

The Thames: The **ARTery of London**
An Exhibition of Contemporary Art and Sculpture



St Katharine Docks to host contemporary art exhibition The Thames: The **ARTery of London**

St Katharine Docks' Devon House will play host to The Thames: The **ART**ery of London, A contemporary art and sculpture exhibition, **4-18 December 2016**, In partnership with Plastic Propaganda, the exhibition explores and considers the River Thames and its iconographical and symbolic character for a wide range of contemporary visual practice. Its intention is to explore themes, narratives, associations, histories, ecologies and ideas other than those necessarily realised through the literal and direct depiction of the Thames itself.

The River Thames – its length, tidal reach, importance for trade and for the sustainability of the city's recycled water resources – is a significant part of London's natural and ecological landscape. Its name, taken from the Sanskrit Tamas, literally means dark, suggests perhaps a partly occluded or elliptical subject resistant to the gaze. But London is and has been typically identified by

the snake-like image of the Thames, often used for navigation, whether from earlier, aerial analogue photography or through digitised satellite imagery made ubiquitous by search engines on our PCs. Beyond the immediate course and tidelines of the Thames itself there is a rich and expansive hinterland which indexes a history of continuous settlement from the Romano-British era through to the industrial period of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the post-industrial present.

For artists as diverse as Monet, Derain, Whistler, Roberts, Maitland, Gilman, Greaves and Turner, the natural iconography of the Thames itself and its adjoining architecture provided a creative impetus to their own aesthetic. Similarly, both the Tate Modern and Tate Britain might be conceived as site responsive interventions, the placement of which recognises and continues this history of immersive engagement. This group exhibition, *The Thames: The ARTery of London* has been organised and curated as a contemporary contribution to this artistic, social and cultural dynamic.

There will be opportunities for private viewings and meeting the artists for reflection and discussion on **Tuesday 6 December 6pm and Wednesday 14 December 6pm**. All welcome.

Plastic Propaganda is a not for profit collective that provides a supportive and visible platform for both new and established artists, organising and supporting exhibitions both nationally and internationally.

The Thames: The **ART**ery of London exhibition will be open daily **11:00-18:00 4-18 December** at Devon House, St Katharine's Way, St Katharine Docks.

For further information on the exhibition please contact William Minto on wminto@btinternet.com or by telephone 07775 916737

Further activities of Plastic Propaganda can be found at www.plasticpropaganda.co.uk

- ENDS -

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Iconic St Katharine Docks is Central London's only marina and has evolved into a thriving waterside community featuring modern and unusual office space, luxury homes and quayside dining and shopping. A stone's throw from the Tower of London, the site has a fascinating history. Opening in 1828, the Thomas Telford-designed dock was once one of the busiest ports in the UK, renowned for handling luxury goods, sugar, rum, spices, perfumes, wines and tea. Today, St Katharine Docks is home to a range of leading companies and brands including tech incubator Rainmaking Loft, Tom's Kitchen, CAU, Bravas Tapas and artisan coffee shop White Mulberries. Every Friday, the Docks hosts the popular World Food Market, serving some of the capital's best street food.

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