

# City Limits

A public conversation about the nature and use of public space

Part of the SKY ARTS ARTICHOKE SALON SERIES WITH TATE

**Thursday 7 October**

**The Williamson Tunnels, Liverpool**



ARTICHOKE

skyARTS HD

TATE

liverpool biennial

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

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**The panel:**  
**Chair: Tim Marlow**  
**Lewis Biggs**  
**The Right Reverend James Jones**  
**Helen King**  
**Helen Marriage**

Artichoke principal partner  
**skyARTS HD**  
Part of the 2010 Sky Arts Artichoke Series

Produced in collaboration with  
**TATE**   
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## Forewords

In 2008 Artichoke caused no small amount of disruption to the city of Liverpool as we brought a giant spider, later known as *La Princesse*, to the streets for a five-day adventure that involved diverting traffic, closing the Mersey Tunnel, and even removing a roundabout. And we aren't alone: from Ringo Starr's opening concert on the roof of St George's Hall for Liverpool '08, to the Mathew Street Festival and the Biennial's regular occupation of the city, Liverpool has played host to many events which some feel place an unbearable burden on the city, while others delight in the sheer madness of it all.

It's true that all across the country streets are closed to traffic for political demonstrations, governmental or ceremonial occasions, moments of sporting triumph, road works – there is no end to the number of events that disrupt our everyday lives. But how do the arts justify their place within a city's public calendar?

Since its foundation in 2005, Artichoke has mounted a series of events across the country that have brought their surroundings to a standstill. Always making the ambition and imagination of the artist central to our argument, we've been engaged in a series of challenges to the *status quo*, making the case for the public realm to be treated as something more than just a place for shopping and traffic.

Of course, we recognise that there is always another point of view – a view that says that public spaces are better left uncluttered; that buses should run on time; that a city can't afford the disruption that major public events inevitably bring. And, unless strictly necessary, such events should be restricted to our parks and gardens. And currently, in a time of national purse-tightening, perhaps such events are a luxury we simply can't afford. But, as we become acquainted with an increasing public appetite for large-scale gatherings and events, we wanted to ask: just how much can a city take? Who foots the bill – and who profits? And do our fears of disruption, the cost, and the potential for disorder mean that we turn away from moments of communal joy and celebration and even from the lasting effects of community cohesion?

**Helen Marriage, Nicky Webb**  
Directors, Artichoke

At Sky, we want to contribute to the UK's cultural landscape by opening up the arts to more people in innovative and engaging ways – on-screen, online, on stage and on the streets. That's why in 2009 we embarked on a unique two year partnership with Artichoke.

Our first project together was Antony Gormley's *One & Other* in which Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth played host to a different individual every hour of every day for 100 days. Sky's involvement enabled the project to reach a huge international audience. We created a bespoke website with live webstreaming of each plinthers' hour resulting in over 7million hits. This was complemented by a weekly highlights programme showing the best and most interesting plinthers broadcast live from Trafalgar square. Our second project together, *Lumiere*, lit up the city of Durham in a beautiful light festival which attracted tens of thousands of visitors from across the UK. Sky Arts went behind the scenes at the festival to shoot 10 short films about the artists as well as a 30 minute documentary. Most recently we partnered with Artichoke on *The Magical Menagerie* which brought a spectacular carousel of monumental proportions to IF: Milton Keynes International Festival, where we held Sky Sundays offering the public 2for1 tickets and added entertainment on select weekends.

We know from our partnership in Trafalgar Square that art in the public space is a subject people are never short of views on. So we are pleased to be partnering with Artichoke and Tate on the Salons series, to explore these ideas in hopes of uncovering more ways to work together with artists, organisers and the public to bring art to life in their everyday lives.

**John Cassy**  
Channel Director, Sky Arts

The city of Liverpool has an amazing capacity and enthusiasm for staging events in its public spaces, from small-scale performance interventions and street festivals, through to traffic-stopping, road-closing and awe-inspiring spectacles such as the 'giant spider' *La Machine*, produced by Artichoke for Liverpool '08 (European Capital of Culture).

The transformation of public spaces for the Liverpool Biennial, street events such as the Mathew Street and Hub festivals and multi art form spectaculars such as Art, Music, Film and Dance On the Waterfront. All have enabled the city to stage a stimulating programme of artistic interventions that aim to capture the imagination of the public, leaving an impression that will last a lifetime.

But what do the public gain from these transformative experiences, and do they leave a lasting impression that was the intended one? What is the real impact on the city, in terms of cultural development, urban regeneration, capital projects and civic pride? And in a city that is well-used to supporting regular crowds of thousands to its football matches, how can arts and culture continue to be at the heart of the city's cultural life?

The Williamson Tunnels have a very special place in the secret history of Liverpool – a network of underground tunnels reaching across the city, more of which are being discovered every day. As the 6th Liverpool Biennial *Touched* explores how art can touch a city and its people, the Tunnels make an interesting and unique space in which to discuss the transformative effects and sustainability of an ambitious programme of arts events in Liverpool.

**Caitlin Page**  
Public Programmes, Tate Liverpool



**ACC Helen King**  
Assistant Chief  
Constable, Merseyside  
Police

Helen King joined  
Merseyside Police  
in September 2005.

In 2006, she led the establishment of a new Portfolio entitled "Citizen Focus" which incorporates Communications and Marketing, Calls & Crime Recording, Corporate Criminal Justice, and the Citizen Focus Department, including Neighbourhood Policing and Diversity.

The Portfolio has delivered improvements in satisfaction and confidence in Merseyside Police. She was also Force lead for Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture, as well as chairing most of the Force's Police Misconduct Panels.

In March 2009 she took over the Force's Operations portfolio, responsible for the Merseyside's 6 policing Areas and with line management of over 4000 police officers and staff.

Helen started her police career with the Cheshire Constabulary in 1986, working in uniform, CID, Personnel and Complaints and Discipline. She served in superintending ranks as a Divisional Commander, Head of Human Resources, HMIC Lead Inspector for BCU inspections and as Head of Professional Standards.

She has an MA from Oxford University, having studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St Anne's College. She also has an MA in Police Management from Manchester University. In 2003 Helen completed the Strategic Command Course and a Diploma in Applied Criminology at Cambridge University.



**Lewis Biggs**  
Director, Liverpool  
Biennial

Since November  
2000, Lewis Biggs  
has been Artistic  
Director of Liverpool

Biennial festival, and Chief Executive of Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art Ltd (art commissioning agency) – of which he was a founding Trustee in 1998. From the outset this vision has been to work without a gallery but with an ever-broadening range of partners in taking art beyond the walls of traditional showcases and creating a better ecology for artists whilst presenting the best in contemporary art across Merseyside.

Lewis has had an extensive career in the visual arts spanning over 30 years. As curator of exhibitions and displays at Tate Liverpool from 1987 to 1990 and then, particularly, as Director from 1990 to 2000, he has been in a position to help build and nurture some of the most influential contemporary art organisations in the north west of England. Lewis has sat on a number of high profile panels including Arts Council England's Arts Panel and the Visual Arts Advisory Committee of the British Council. He has been responsible directly and indirectly for many significant exhibitions and publications in this time.

In addition to Lewis' current role at Liverpool Biennial, he is Visiting Professor of Contemporary Art and an Honorary Fellow of Liverpool John Moores University.



**Helen Marriage**  
Co-Director, Artichoke

Helen Marriage  
is a co-director of  
Artichoke, which she  
founded with Nicky  
Webb in 2005. Since

then, Artichoke has produced extraordinary shows around the UK, mounting hugely ambitious and technically complex events to the delight of millions of people around the country. In 2008, Artichoke brought *La Machine* to Liverpool, a spectacular event that saw a giant mechanical spider stop the city in its tracks, capture the hearts of the people and become the centrepiece of the city's European Capital of Culture programme.

Her previous work has included a seven-year period as Director of the Salisbury Festival which she transformed from a local affair to what The Times described as a 'miracle of modern British culture'.

Helen went to Salisbury after creating the first Arts & Events programme for the developers of Canary Wharf in London. Prior to that she was an Associate Director of the London International Festival of Theatre. She began her working life with Artsadmin where she managed a variety of independent artists in the early 1980s.



**The Rt. Rev. James Jones**  
Bishop of Liverpool

James Jones became Bishop of Liverpool in 1998 having been Bishop of Hull since 1994. Over the last fourteen years he has been deeply involved in Urban Regeneration. For four years he chaired the New Deal for Communities programme in Liverpool (Kensington Regeneration) and has championed community-led regeneration in lectures, articles and broadcasts. Working in partnership with other faiths and a number of agencies he has set up *Faiths4Change* which is an organisation working across the faith communities engaging local people in the holistic transformation of their local environment.

He established and chaired the Governing Body of the faith-based St Francis of Assisi City Academy, broadcasts regularly especially on 'Thought for the Day' for the BBC, and has written a number of books.

He has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Hull University, an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Lincoln and an Honorary PhD from Liverpool Hope University. He is a member of the House of Lords, Bishop for Prisons, Visitor to St Peter's College in the University of Oxford, Co-President of Liverpool Hope University, WWF Ambassador and a Fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce), Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, Vice President of the town and Country Planning Association, Chair of the Hillsborough Independent Panel.



**Tim Marlow** (Chair)

Tim Marlow has been Director of Exhibitions at the White Cube gallery since 2003. Over the last six years he has worked with some of the most important and influential artists of our time including Chuck Close, Jake & Dinos Chapman, Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst, Anselm Kiefer and Doris Salcedo. He is also an award-winning radio and television broadcaster. He has presented over 100 documentaries on British Television, most recently for Sky Arts. His series *Great Artists with Tim Marlow* is currently airing on the channel.

*The Sultan's Elephant*, London, May 2006  
Photograph © Sophie Laslett



## Coming next

### THE GARDENS OF ENGLAND Friday 12 November

The next Sky Arts Artichoke Salon, will take place in the awe-inspiring surroundings of the **Eden Project, Cornwall**. With country house owners across the land increasingly mounting music festivals or creating sculpture parks as a way of turning a profit, we discuss the benefits and impacts of such events. Curator and writer Tim Marlow chairs a panel of provocative speakers to consider the future for such events and asks if they're providing a lifeline for our rural populations, or if they're just a blot on the landscape.

For more details visit [www.artichoke.uk.com](http://www.artichoke.uk.com)

## Artichoke

Artichoke is a registered charity, funded by Arts Council England. Artichoke works with the best creative minds to produce extraordinary shows that live in the memory forever, and believes that the arts should take place not only behind the closed doors of theatres and art galleries, but also in public places.

In May 2006, Artichoke presented the biggest piece of free theatre ever seen in the UK, Royal de Luxe's *The Sultan's Elephant*. The story of the little girl giant and the 12m tall elephant won the hearts of the nation and the press claimed a million people filled the streets of London to watch. In 2008 the company joined London and New York by means of Paul St George's *Telectroscope*, and people gathered day and night on both sides of the Atlantic to reunite lost family members or simply to catch a glimpse of life across the pond. Also in 2008 the company mounted the flagship event for Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations, with *La Machine's* gigantic mechanical spider and her adventures in the city. And in 2009 the company produced Antony Gormley's 100-day long invasion of the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in London, *One & Other*, and *Lumiere*, a festival of light in Durham. This year saw Artichoke collaborate for the third time with French artist-cum-engineer Francois Delaroziere and his company La Machine (*The Sultan's Elephant*, *La Machine*) to transport audiences into a fairytale world with *The Magical Menagerie*, the world's only square carousel populated with an array of mechanical beats, fish, and insects operated by their riders.

Sky Arts has generously committed to working with Artichoke for the next two years. Their support will enable Artichoke to develop new opportunities for artists to create work across the country and new ways to delight, surprise and challenge audiences everywhere.

[www.artichoke.uk.com](http://www.artichoke.uk.com)

## Tate Liverpool

Tate Liverpool was established in 1988 and is one of four galleries that house the Tate National Collection of historic, British and International Modern Art, along with Tate Britain, Tate Modern and Tate St. Ives. Located within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Liverpool's waterfront, we are the most visited gallery for modern and contemporary art outside London in the UK and are renowned for innovative and pioneering exhibitions which tour the world. Acting as a catalyst, collaborator and conduit, Tate Liverpool's mission is to widen access and engagement with the visual arts, increasing the knowledge, understanding and enjoyment with a diverse public. We achieve this through gallery interpretation as well as a high-quality learning programme for young people, children and families, schools, communities and adult learners. For information on our programme and events please visit [www.tate.org.uk/liverpool](http://www.tate.org.uk/liverpool)

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## Tate appeal

Every year over 7 million visitors enjoy Tate's exhibitions, art works and events. Tate relies on the support of individuals like you to make these activities possible. You can help by getting involved in a variety of ways. Join as a Tate Liverpool Member or Patron, or make a donation of any size. Make a difference today. Call the Development Manager on 0151 702 7430 or visit [www.tate.org.uk/support](http://www.tate.org.uk/support)

## Sky Arts

Sky Arts has a two-year partnership with Artichoke, the UK's leading public arts producers. The first project in the Sky Arts Artichoke Season was Antony Gormley's commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, *One & Other*. This was followed by *Lumiere*, a festival of light in Durham. 2010 has seen the continuation of Sky Arts Artichoke Season with a series of Salons in association with Tate, as well as *The Magical Menagerie* at IF: Milton Keynes International Festival. Next year, the Season continues with *Dining with Alice* at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival. Sky Arts is one of the largest corporate supporters of arts in the UK, working with the Hay Festival and English National Ballet amongst others. Sky Arts also run 18 smaller scale partnerships a year with arts organisations from across the UK. Each partnership sees the channel produce a specially filmed *Sky Arts At...* documentary, giving viewers a unique view of the artistic process from behind the scenes. 2010 partnerships include Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Artes Mundi and National Theatre of Scotland.

Sky Arts is the only stable of television channels in the UK dedicated entirely to the arts, screening 24 hours a day, every day on Sky Arts 1, Sky Arts 2, Sky Arts 1 HD and Sky Arts 2 HD. Highlights include a world first in opera simulcasting, screening the first night of ENO's *La bohème* on Sky Arts 2 whilst simultaneously broadcasting all of the backstage action live on Sky Arts 1; *Songbook*, a series of one on one interviews and acoustic performances from seminal songwriters and *The Book Show* – the only television programme in the UK dedicated solely to books.

[www.sky.com/arts](http://www.sky.com/arts)

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## ARTICHOKE HEARTS

The Artichoke Hearts are a group of individuals who help us make accessible, inspiring, large-scale events. Whether via an annual subscription or a unique donation our Hearts help us bring our projects to fruition. By joining as a Heart you too can enjoy a range of benefits as well as the enormous satisfaction of sharing the creation of events that bring surprise, pleasure, and delight to thousands of people. You can find out more about the Hearts scheme by visiting [www.artichoke.uk.com/support](http://www.artichoke.uk.com/support).