

Now I make a leaf of Voices - Sculpture Exhibition

The London Group

Waterloo Festival 2026

The London Group is delighted to present **'Now I make a leaf of Voices'** a free outdoor sculpture exhibition in St John's Churchyard Gardens in partnership with St John's Church and the Waterloo Festival 2026.

The theme originates from Walt Whitman's roaring, elegant poem *'Voices'* from his celebrated collection *'Leaves of Grass'* published in 1855. It celebrates polyphony and plurality at the core of the creative expression. It takes the shape of personal and communal voices, expressing emotions, histories and opinions. Voices can soothe, entertain, anger or lead.

'O what is it in me that makes me tremble so at voices?

*Surely, whoever speaks to me in the right voice, him or her I shall follow,
As the water follows the moon, silently, with fluid steps, anywhere around the
globe.'*

Leaves of Grass, by Walt Whitman

The London Group members and invited artists take inspiration from the theme, combine materials, words and sounds and use the churchyard gardens to raise their 'sculptural voices'.

Barbara Beyer & Mark Sowden's 'The hatter singing as he stands' inspired by working songs associated with trading and crafting, takes imprints on clay of the churchyard walls to capture the resonant spirit of the daily community life. In Paul Bonomini's 'The Singing Ringing Tree', hundreds of tiny bells hang from the leaf stems, moving gently with the wind. They answer to one another in an ever-shifting chorus, transforming the tree to a living body of voices.

This exhibition carries particular resonance since the Festival of Britain took place 75 years ago, a post-war celebration of creativity and renewal. St John's Waterloo was rebuilt as the Festival's official church and the London Group organised two massive open submission exhibitions. Once again this summer, we will take the opportunity to unite our voices and celebrate. Alongside this powerful sculpture trail and during the Waterloo Festival (9-12th of July) there will be workshops, performances and a series of social events bringing our communities together.

**THE
LONDON
GROUP**





Barbara Beyer & Mark Sowden – The hatter singing as he stands, fired clay

The London Group Exhibiting Artists

Barbara Beyer, Paul Bonomini, Clive Burton, Paul and Laura Carey, Martin Darbyshire, Stathis Dimitriadis, Alexandra Harley, Aude Hérail Jäger, Annie Johns, Anne Leigniel, Jockel Liess (Partial Wave Child), Sumi Perera, Paul Tecklenberg, Marcia Teusink.

Invited Artists

Andrew Ash, Gillian Brent, Andy D’Cruz, Amanda Francis, Geoixos (Partial Wave Child), Andia Coral Newton, Jessica Palmer, Desa Philippi, Yuko Shiraishi, Mark Sowden, John Wigley, Shotaro Yoshino.

The London Group

The London Group was set up in October 1913 by 32 artists including Harold Gilman, Robert Bevan, Jacob Epstein, Duncan Grant, Sylvia Gosse, Wyndham Lewis, Lucien Pissarro, Ethel Sands and Walter Sickert, with the aim of creating a powerful artist-run group to act as a progressive counterbalance to institutions such as the Royal Academy. The founding group created a unique and sustainable organisation, which has gone on to successfully nurture the careers of many of Britain’s best-known artists. The London Group is a thriving democratic artists’ collective practising in all disciplines, from painting and sculpture to moving image, digital and performance, with a full annual events programme in London and beyond. The Group’s written constitution requires it “to advance public awareness of contemporary visual art by holding exhibitions annually.” Operating in the interstices of existent art institutions, the Group’s focus today is on self-generated exhibitions. Organised and managed by its artist members, these events aim to offer a serious and alternative perspective to contemporary visual arts in Britain.

**St John's Churchyard
St John's Waterloo
73 Waterloo Road
London, SE1 8TY**

**Monday 6th July – Saturday 6th Sep
Open: 9am - 8pm
Free entry
Nearest tube: Waterloo**



Paul Bonomini - The Singing Ringing Tree, metal bells with thread

www.thelondongroup.com

Contact: enquiries@thelondongroup.com

Links:

[Press release webpage](#)

[St John's webpage](#)

[Leaves of Grass, by Walt Whitman](#)

100-word blurb:

The London Group presents 'Now I make a leaf of Voices', a free outdoor sculpture exhibition in St John's Churchyard Gardens, in partnership with St John's Church and the Waterloo Festival 2026.

Inspired by Walt Whitman's 'Voices' from his celebrated 'Leaves of Grass' (1855), the exhibition celebrates polyphony and plurality at the heart of creative expression. Fourteen London Group members and twelve invited artists combine materials, words and sounds to raise their sculptural voices across the gardens. Alongside the sculpture trail, workshops, performances and social events will bring our communities together during the Waterloo Festival (9–12 July). Open daily 6 July–6 September, 9am–8pm.

25-word blurb:

The London Group presents 'Now I make a leaf of Voices' — A free outdoor sculpture exhibition with performances. St John's Churchyard, 6 July–6 September.

Event Dates:

Private View: Thursday 9th of July, 6 - 8.45pm

Performance by Partial Wave Child: Friday 10th of July 6-8pm

Artists Talks: Sunday 6th of September 12-2pm