

6  
July

–

6  
Sep

Mon–Sun  
9am – 8pm  
FREE ENTRY

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

THE  
LONDON  
GROUP

# Now I make a leaf of Voices



thelondongroup.com  
Image: Annie Johns 'Connected Voices'

## Sculpture in St John's Church Gardens

ST JOHN'S  
+ ST ANDREW'S  
at Waterloo

# 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 – Sunday 6th Sep  
Open: 9am - 8pm  
Free entry  
Nearest tube: Waterloo**



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

**Contact:**

[enquiries@thelondongroup.com](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 6 - 8.45pm

**Performance by Partial Wave Child:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of July 6-8pm

**Artists Talks:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of September 12-2pm