

BBC PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME

A programme of exciting contemporary art is an integral part of the BBC Media Village development, encouraging BBC staff and the local community to engage with the buildings and the surrounding environment.

Public art has a long tradition at the BBC: Eric Gill created his famous Prospero and Ariel sculptures for the exterior of Broadcasting House in 1932 and a giant mural was commissioned from John Piper for the foyer of Television Centre in 1960.

The public art at White City features both temporary and permanent works in a wide range of media, including:

Yuko Shiraishi

Japanese artist Yuko Shiraishi has worked with architects Allies and Morrison on permanent architectural interventions for the Broadcast and Media Centres. Shiraishi's colour schemes have been applied to the shutters behind the external louvres on both buildings, breaking up the repetition of the façades, and to the timber acoustic 'fins' in the internal atria. She has also created a striking mural for the reception area of the Media Centre.

Simon Patterson

British artist Simon Patterson has created an art wall in the entrance building of the Broadcast Centre. Based on designs used for First World War dazzle ships – merchant ships camouflaged by artists using optical trickery – the wall includes the names of people working behind the scenes in the film and television industry in special effects, stunts and make-up, including pioneering animator Ray Harryhausen.

Voices of White City

A collaboration between Poet Laureate Andrew Motion and graphic designer John Morgan launched Voices of White City, an innovative text and landscape project. Motion and Morgan have created and designed a poem that is now permanently inlaid in the cobble stones in the area between the buildings. The project will now expand to include workshops with local people to develop more text works that will appear throughout BBC Media Village.

Education and outreach projects

Education and outreach projects to date have included artist Thomas Cox-Bisham working with children and teachers from the nearby Canberra Primary School to create new designs for their playground.

Danish artist Nikolaj Larsen led a digital art-based project with four secondary schools in Hammersmith and Fulham, encouraging students to use disposable and video cameras to create animated film montages about their lives.

The British Council

The British Council has kindly made long-term loans from its art collection for display in the BBC's White City buildings. Artworks include pieces by Patrick Caulfield, Sean Scully, Mark Francis, Bruce McLean and Michael Craig-Martin.

The BBC Media Village public art programme has been managed by ArtOffice.