

# HAYWARD GALLERY

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## Press Release

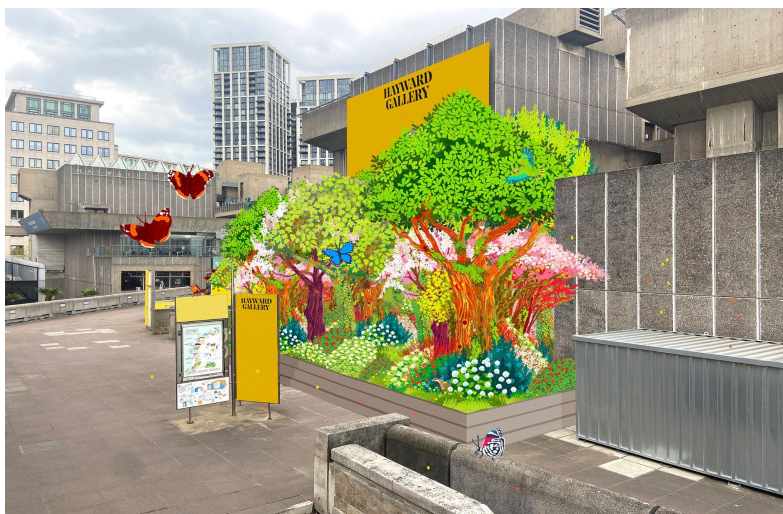
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**Images are available to download [here](#)**

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## Hayward Gallery launches SUGi Pocket Forest of 390 UK native trees as new, permanent feature of Southbank Centre



*Natura Nostra Forest - Southbank in 10 years' time visualisation. Image courtesy of SUGi.*

The Hayward Gallery, Moët & Chandon and urban rewilding organisation SUGi are joining forces to install a **pocket forest**, Natura Nostra Forest — *Southbank*, a 130 metre-squared patch of 390 trees created as a new, permanent feature of the Southbank Centre, reflecting the art centre's commitment to sustainability, with its continued work to be a Net Zero carbon site by 2035 (Scope 1 and 2). This is the first pocket forest to be installed at an arts organisation anywhere in the world with SUGi.

Being planted in early May, Natura Nostra Forest — *Southbank* will be situated on a terrace next to the Hayward Gallery entrance and adjacent to Waterloo Bridge. It is estimated that this pocket forest will give an average carbon sequestration rate of 3 kilos per square metre per annum, at a total of 405 kilos per annum over the first 20 years of growth. Carbon sequestration is the capturing, removal and storage of carbon dioxide.

The Natura Nostra forest will be launched as part of the Hayward Gallery's upcoming exhibition ***Dear Earth: Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis***, aligning with the exhibition's aim to inspire a deeper emotional connection to nature, in this case through rewilding its urban

surroundings. This exhibition is a part of ***Planet Summer***, a summer season of climate-focused programming at the Southbank Centre.

Created using the *Miyawaki* method, a technique that allows for quick planting and an almost maintenance free upkeep, the pocket forest is designed to encourage wildlife and nature to thrive amongst the brutalist architecture of the site, restoring the sights and sounds of the natural world. The pocket forest will be installed using a dense style of planting and it will reintroduce 24 native British species such as hazel, crab apple, dog rose and more to the heart of London, supporting the wellbeing of both people and the planet.

The forest's success will be monitored with yearly biodiversity reports.

**Ralph Rugoff, Director of the Hayward Gallery**, says: "We're delighted to be partnering with SUGi on this inspiring project, which represents an important step in the Southbank Centre's ongoing plans to green the site, and which launches alongside a summer programme at the Hayward Gallery and across the Southbank Centre devoted to artists who are responding to the climate emergency, and promoting an ethic of engaged care."

**Elise Van Middeltem, Founder & CEO at SUGi**, says: "Our mission is to restore native ecosystems in cities around the world. The Natura Nostra Forest — *Southbank*, will instigate a conversation between the concrete surroundings and Nature, restoring the sights and sounds of the natural world in a place that celebrates the wonders of human creativity."

Further greening of the Southbank Centre site is taking place with a rejuvenation of the roof garden above the Queen Elizabeth Hall. This will include a new garden commission from Paul Pulford, Founder and Head Gardener of Grounded EcoTherapy, a scheme that provides therapy and skills through gardening for people with experience of substance misuse, mental health difficulties and homelessness. The project responds to the growing impact of the climate crisis and the necessity to build resilient communities and farming practices. This new garden will be bedded using a technique called rock mulching which has been used for centuries by indigenous populations in the deserts of North America, and which reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **Our Sustainability Commitment**

The Southbank Centre is actively working to be more sustainable. We aim to be a Net Zero carbon site by 2035 (Scope 1 and 2, which refers to measures controlled by the Southbank Centre such as energy used on-site) and fully Net Zero by 2040 (Scope 3, which refers to indirect emissions that are released as a result of the Southbank Centre's activity).

We were one of the first organisations in the arts sector to be certified as energy efficient under the internationally recognised standard in 2017, but have set further targets across our buildings and estate, programming and operations, employees, visitors and commercial activity. We are aiming to install solar technology by the end of 2023 and have recently appointed a Sustainability Advisor to implement more environmentally conscious measures across the organisation and launch a sustainability e-learning module for all staff to complete.

Current and upcoming environmental measures include using the Gallery Climate Coalition's carbon calculator to track emissions, installing energy efficient LED lighting and relaxing humidity controls. Further measures include lowering temperatures by 1°C, trialling PropelAir toilets that reduce water per flush by 66% using compressed air in office spaces, with a view to upgrading across the site, installing a Wastemaster which composts food in 24 hours to reduce food waste collections by 80%. Over the past six years, we've reduced our CO2 emissions by 48%. With sustainability targets in place, the support of dedicated internal resources and external expertise, we are actively making changes to further minimise our environmental impact and measure our progress regularly.

**Please find more information on the Southbank Centre's environmental sustainability [here](#).**

### **About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

### **About the Hayward Gallery**

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

### **About SUGi**

SUGi is a global platform fully dedicated to biodiversity building, ecosystem restoration and reconnecting people to nature through the creation of ultra-dense, biodiverse forests of native species primarily in urban areas. Their signature strategy entails engineering soil, microbes and biomass to kickstart natural growth processes, according to the proven Miyawaki method, which in only 20 years yields growth comparable to a 100-year-old forest.

With 155 pocket forests planted in 28 cities on 6 continents, they have reconnected 33,500 youth and community members to nature.

**Please find more information [here](#).**

### **About Moët & Chandon**

Since 1743, and from generation to generation, Moët & Chandon has been working to preserve nature. *Natura Nostra*, the Maison's large-scale agroecology programme, is a movement for the future of the Champagne region and beyond; a movement to accelerate the ecological transition by speeding up actions in favour of biodiversity.

The programme's first major ambition is to create more than 100 kilometres of ecological corridors across Champagne by 2027. The second is to accelerate regenerative agriculture to stimulate soil, replenish organic matter and restore biodiversity more widely.

To support this mission, Moët & Chandon have worked with SUGi on three Natura Nostra projects, with this pocket forest at the Southbank Centre being their fourth collaboration.

**Please find more on Moët & Chandon's work with SUGi [here](#).**

#### **About *Dear Earth: Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis***

From 21 June to 3 September 2023, the Hayward Gallery will present *Dear Earth: Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis*, a timely exhibition exploring how international contemporary artists are helping to reframe our responses to the climate crisis. *Dear Earth* hopes to inspire a renewed sense of connection with the natural world, and invite audiences to consider the unique and evolving role art has to play in today's climate debate and activism.

**Please find more information [here](#).**

#### **About *Planet Summer***

This season of climate care, hope and activism takes its inspiration from our pioneering Hayward Gallery exhibition, *Dear Earth: Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis*, a group show itself inspired by artist Otobong Nkanga's suggestion that 'caring is a form of resistance'. *Planet Summer* inspires a call for action that all of us, making change together, can address the challenges of the climate crisis.

*Planet Summer* draws together a powerful group of perspectives on the climate crisis, hosting talks with Greta Thunberg, Mikaela Loach, Dominique Palmer, Rebecca Solnit, Thelma Young Lutunatabua, Mark Carney, Tori Tsui and Cerys Matthews.

But *Planet Summer* also delivers a season of artistic and communal responses. Theatre pioneers Ontroerend Goed bring us a boundary-pushing new show about the future of humanity, Are we not drawn onward to new erA, Plot 17 throws a hip-hop garden block party on the Riverside Terrace, and we welcome back our Poetry International festival.

Musical contributions include *Earth Makes No Sound's* fusion of choral singing, movement and body percussion, and *MELTWATER*, a haunting composition focusing on the melting of a polar ice cap.

And because young people hold the key to the future of our climate, there's plenty of ways for families to get involved too. That includes *REPLAY: A Limitless Recycled Playground*, *Bird Rave's* 'dance floor ornithology', *The SpongeBob Musical* and the return of Jeppe Hein's ever-popular *Appearing Rooms* fountain.

**Please find more information [here](#).**

#### **About Grounded EcoTherapy**

Grounded Ecotherapy is part of a year-round Arts and Wellbeing programme within the Southbank Centre's Creative Learning team. The initiative is supported by Providence Row Housing Association and the Southbank Centre.

**Please find more information [here](#).**



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