

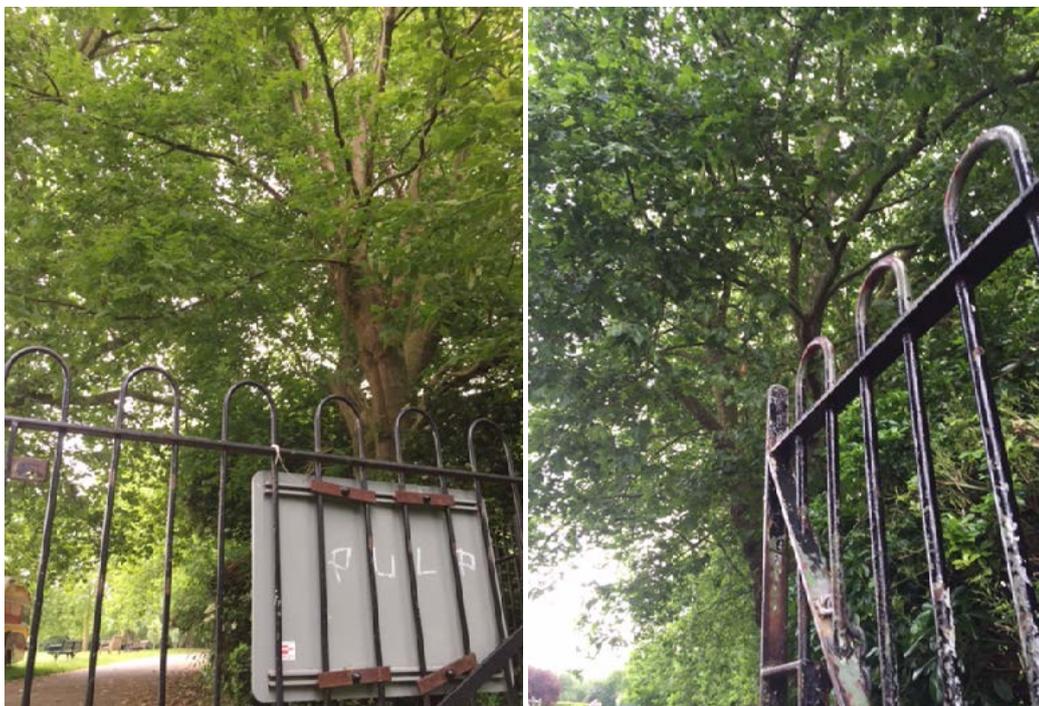
# GRACE ADAM VIEWS & VISTAS: NORTH LONDON PARKLIFE

21 AUGUST – 19 NOVEMBER 2016  
PRIORY PARK, HARINGEY, LONDON

For immediate release: 11 July 2016

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Announcement of temporary site-specific sculpture by artist, Grace Adam. **Views & Vistas**, taking place in **Priory Park, Haringey, 21 August – 19 November 2016**. Funded by Research Funding, London College Communication, University of the Arts London and supported by Haringey Borough Council and the Friends of Priory Park.

Views & Vistas is a site-specific installation, achieved through the construction of a series of six Viewing Gates. Each one invites park users to stop, and enjoy a part of our built environment, inside or outside the park. The Viewing Gates will be made from tall tapered, notched and stained posts. The Viewing Gates invite Priory Park users to negotiate and engage with the park in different ways and offer slightly altered routes and unexpected vistas and views. It will require commuters and other park users to deviate from their default walking patterns; to slow down, notice, to formulate responses and opinions on this piece and their park. A downloadable map with information about the objects and views that are framed, as well as a short survey on attitudes to Priory Park and 21st century public spaces will be available.

Artist Grace Adam, teaches at University of the Arts London, at Chelsea College of Arts and London College of Communication across the Interior and Spatial FdA and BA, where she works with students to design, create and conceptualise new spatial situations.

Through her work, Grace hopes “to make interventions that enliven, inform and question; that awaken us to parts of our city that we no longer see clearly or perhaps even notice.”

How do these additions/alterations impact on users’ experience of a specific space and the debate around public space more widely? Grace situates her practice and this research within the dialogue around place-making (psycho-geography, Iain Sinclair, Rebecca Solnit). She is considering the conversations and responses to the 4th Plinth, the Sky Garden and the proposed Garden Bridge and the wider conversation around urban spaces. All these represent attempts to create, manufacture or populate new urban, privately owned, ‘public’ spaces. What, if anything do they borrow from older public spaces? The construction and dialogue of this piece asks the question: How do we adapt spaces from their original remits into relevant 21st century places?

Views & Vistas is a contribution to the debate on public architecture and public spaces more widely. Grace Adam’s methodology is to change the space, thereby changing the way it can be negotiated, and to observe and seek responses to this.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of public engagement events and participation in The Big Draw, a unique opportunity to draw with Grace in Priory Park.



*Views and Vistas, Park Life is a sculptural intervention within Priory Park, a historic site that provides a 'green lung' for the residents of Crouch End. Grace Adam is constructing six viewing gates to create temporary vistas to landmarks in the surrounding landscape. These focal points include St Paul's Fountain, The Metcalfe Fountain, Alexandra Palace and The Moravian Church in addition to views framed both by trees and architecture. These gates ask visitors to consider their search for recreation, health and social contact within a public space.*

*Grace explains that 'this is my local park where I walk nearly every day with my dogs, my friends and my family. Parks facilitate unexpected interactions like nowhere else and I wanted to make something that takes advantage of that. We are accustomed to the fast-paced framing, storing and sharing of images but these six views will slowly change over three months.'*

*The project explores how we interact with a communal resource and what might happen if that familiarity is disrupted by change. Responding as a 'site-specific' sculpture to the character of Priory Park, Views and Vistas, Park Life is an encounter between the senses, design, nature, history and psycho-geography.*

Joshua White Co presenter, The Art Channel, lecturer

*Grace Adam's work presents an artistic dialogue between urban environment and public space, offering us the opportunity to see Priory Park in a different light, particularly as the Friends and the council are working together to bring the old fountain back to life.*

Friends of Priory Park

**Artist Biography: Grace Adam**

Grace Adam has a Masters in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Arts and a PGCert from the University of the Arts London. She was Fine Art Fellow Chelsea College of Arts. She has exhibited widely and her recent exhibitions include *Meantime Project Space*, Cheltenham, 2013; *The Home & The World*, Dartington Arts Centre 2012; *Looking East. Sculpture*, UH and Hatfield House, 2009; *Museum of Domestic Architecture, Domestic Objects*, 2009; *Possible Elephant*, London College of Communication 2016. She lectures and teaches at the University of Arts, London, Tate Modern and Britain, the Serpentine Gallery, Frieze Art Fair and National Portrait Gallery.

**Artist Statement: Grace Adam**

In my practice, I work across drawing, painting, sculpture and installation. I am particularly interested in our environments; how we build, manipulate and negotiate them. My work references the spaces we make and inhabit, the objects we buy, the everyday; notions of what can be beautiful and where.

How do we negotiate and influence our domestic and wider environments? How we interpret contemporary and historical ideas of beauty is being tested. Works seek to question and re-evaluate some of the objects and spaces that define our environments, and therefore us. Pieces hover between built, un-built and grown. An appropriation of familiar, mundane materials and techniques into another context, allows the viewer to see again the plain, the overlooked, the grotesque, the ordinary.

Views & Vistas explores how the apparently arbitrary groups of historical, modern and contemporary objects in these urban and suburban spaces contribute, if anything to our daily lives? Our neighbourhood parks are full of objects made and installed to celebrate, to commemorate achievements, inventions or losses. How do these spaces work? How do their visual triggers affect us? How do we behave in these spaces? Do the objects in them matter, and how do aesthetics, nostalgia, forgetting come into play?

Can or should they be updated through new monuments, restorations or informal/temporary memorials?

For further information on Grace Adam and Views & Vistas (media), please contact:

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Email: [nicolacturner@googlemail.com](mailto:nicolacturner@googlemail.com)

Additional photos are available and Grace Adam is available for interview.

## Notes for Editors

### 1. For more information about Grace Adam's work:

Website: [www.graceadam.com](http://www.graceadam.com)

Twitter: @GraceAdam4

Instagram: ArtistGraceAdam

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/grace.adam.14](http://www.facebook.com/grace.adam.14)

### 2. Funders:

University of the Arts London (UAL)

### 3. Exhibition details:

Dates: 21 August – 19 November 2016

Address: Priory Park, Middle Lane, N8

Visiting: [www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/z-parks-and-open-spaces/priory-park](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/z-parks-and-open-spaces/priory-park)

**4. Priory Park** has been a Green Flag award winner since 2003. The Park is in Hornsey and covers an irregular shaped 6.5 hectares. In addition to the ample green space the park contains a café, paddling pool, tennis courts, playgrounds and a variety of other sporting and recreational facilities. More than 25,000 people visit the park each year, many to enjoy functions in the Pavilion or picnics in the Philosopher's Garden, which is a dog-free area. The outstanding fountain is used as a large planter. Unveiled in the Pleasure Grounds in 1909, it is made from 50 tonnes of Lamorna granite. The original eastern section of the park preserves much of its 19th and 20th century landscaping with well maintained bedding displays, serpentine walks, perimeter shrub beds, mature silver birches, plane trees and an attractive area of mixed tree planting. The park also has an active 'Friends' group.

### 5. The Viewing Gates are:

#### **1/ and 2/ and 3/ look towards the Grade II listed Fountain, (English Heritage Building ID: 201428) from opposite sides**

St Paul's Fountain – In November 1909 and in celebration of the Mayoralty of Ernest Arthur Ebblewhite Esq., the Corporation of London presented the then Borough of Hornsey with a fountain for the recently established Pleasure Grounds on Middle Lane, N8. Over the years, more land was added to these Pleasure Grounds and the entire area was renamed Priory Park. Sited at the top of the slope, the fountain forms the focal point of the ornamental gardens.

This is not just any old fountain, this is 50 tons of speckled grey Cornish Lamorna granite, which was originally placed in the churchyard of St Paul's Cathedral in 1880. It has a four foot high and 20 foot diameter basin, with a carved two foot high City of London coat of arms, a 10 foot high central column supporting a smaller basin and the whole topped with a granite vase.

#### **4/ looks towards the Metcalfe Fountain**

The Metcalf Memorial Fountain – As one enters Priory Park at the Middle Lane gate, adjacent to Chestnut Court, the recently cleaned Metcalf Memorial Fountain can be seen.

This drinking fountain was given by local resident Charles Thomas Page Metcalf in 1879 as a replacement for the village pump and stood in The Broadway, Crouch End, at the site of the present bus stop outside Hornsey Town Hall. With the urbanisation of Crouch End and the building in 1895 of the Clock Tower which incorporated a drinking fountain and provision for the horses of cabmen, the Metcalf Fountain was moved that year to the Middle Lane Pleasure Grounds, now Priory Park

#### **5/ looks towards Hornsey Moravian Church, Priory Road**

#### **6/ looks towards Alexandra Palace**

**6. The 2016 Big Draw** will run from 1 – 31 October across the UK and in twenty other countries, with 280,000 people expected to join in over 1000+ events. The Big Draw offers thousands of enjoyable, and mainly free, drawing activities which connect people of all ages with museums, outdoor spaces, artists, designers, illustrators – and each other. These events are for those who love to draw, as well as for those who say they can't!

[www.campaignfordrawing.org/bigdraw](http://www.campaignfordrawing.org/bigdraw)