

• INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ARTISTS UNVEIL PROPOSALS FOR £2 MILLION EBBSFLEET LANDMARK

• ART GALLERY CREATED TO SHOW PROPOSALS AT BLUEWATER SHOPPING CENTRE

The five proposals for the £2 million Ebbsfleet Landmark by **Daniel Buren, Richard Deacon, Christopher Le Brun, Mark Wallinger and Rachel Whiteread** were unveiled today at a Press Briefing at Ebbsfleet Valley, the site of the future landmark. Each artist has produced a maquette of their proposed artwork, which, along with accompanying material, will go on show to the public in the first ever contemporary art show at Bluewater, Europe's largest shopping centre, on **Tuesday 27 May**.

Daniel Buren is proposing what he calls a 'signal', a tower of stacked cubes through which would pass a single laser beam of light. At ground level there would be a jewel-like cube, painted in red, blue green and yellow, and at the centre a mirror-polished stainless steel parallelogram in which the reflections of people, skies and landscape would appear to visitors as they climb towards the work up a series of terraced stairs.

Richard Deacon's sculpture, which he refers to as a 'nest' would be a steel latticework outlining 26 differently shaped polyhedrons, interconnecting to create a skeletal framework. The structure refers to the richness of archaeological discoveries at the site through its strong similarities to a cairn, a pile of stones, used throughout history as a landmark. The number of modules, 26, also corresponds to the number of letters in the alphabet and Deacon sees writing as a cornerstone of western culture.

Christopher Le Brun has proposed a monumental wing and disc, a reference to the winged messenger of Mercury, the Roman god of travellers and commerce, and to the history of the Roman presence in the area. It would be carved into the chalk landscape and cast in concrete – one of the principal products of North Kent – and erected directly on site. Visitors would be able to walk directly between the canyon-like space created by the wing and the disc and to explore the giant grassed amphitheatre created by the 'casting pit.'

Mark Wallinger is proposing a white horse, 33 times life-size, to stand looking out over Ebbsfleet Valley. The horse would be a faithful representation of a thoroughbred racehorse in all but its scale. Boat-building technology would be used to construct the horse, creating the body in much the same way that a hull of a ship might be made.

“Horsa”, from which the modern word ‘horse’ is derived, was the semi-mythological leader of the Anglo-Saxons who landed near Ebbsfleet, on the Isle of Thanet in the 6th century and so the white horse became the symbol of Kent.

Rachel Whiteread is proposing to create a craggy, ‘recycled mountain’, on top of which would sit a life-size cast interior of a house, like a castle in a magical, fairytale scene. The mountain would emerge as if it was a natural continuation of the parkland and visitors could climb up to the house and look out over the spectacular landscape. The Ebbsfleet site has been home to many communities from pre-history to Romans, Anglo-Saxons and now the new Ebbsfleet Valley development. Whiteread is making a monument to all of these communities and their houses, which have now disappeared.

The selected artist will be announced in Autumn 2008. An exhibition of the artists’ proposals will go on show, curated by Claire Foster of Futurecity, in a specially designed art gallery in Bluewater for three months opening on 27 May 2008. The exhibition will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing an opportunity to half a million visitors a week to see and comment on the proposals.

The Ebbsfleet Landmark is planned to be an enduring symbol of the new development of Ebbsfleet Valley. At over 1,000 acres, three times the size of Hyde Park, Ebbsfleet Valley will be transformed over the coming decades into a new community of up to 10,000 homes, with offices, retail, leisure and community facilities, set in 400 acres of open space and parkland. Along with Eurostar services to and from the continent, it will also have high-speed domestic services to St Pancras in London. The Landmark will be sited in Springhead Park, the south east corner of Ebbsfleet Valley.

The Ebbsfleet Landmark commission is a rare example of large-scale private patronage: the three Patrons are Eurostar, London & Continental Railways and Land Securities who are the developers of Ebbsfleet Valley.

www.ebbsfleetlandmark.com

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