

Press Release

Date of Issue: Wednesday 17 May 2023

ACCLAIMED ARTIST SARAH SZE TRANSFORMS  
VICTORIAN WAITING ROOM IN PECKHAM  
WITH NEW LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATION

The Waiting Room, Peckham Rye Station, London  
19 May – 17 September 2023

Press images are available to download here: <https://tinyurl.com/5be52uzt>

Acclaimed New York-based artist Sarah Sze has transformed a disused Victorian waiting room at Peckham Rye train station in south London with a new site-specific sculptural work, *Metronome*. Co-commissioned by Artangel, the exhibition, titled *The Waiting Room*, opens on **Friday 19 May 2023**, taking over a large, vaulted space above the main ticket office that has been boarded up for sixty years. The exhibition is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Arch Company.

Sze employs painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and video to build immersive works that explore our relationship to images, materiality, time and entropy. In recent years, she has created a new form of sculpture that offers an extraordinary model of our fragile world. These large-scale installations – which she refers to as *Timekeepers* – integrate everyday materials, torn photographs and a multitude of flickering videos in immersive environments with their own fragile ecologies. These works explore the tenuous threshold between the digital and the analogue, the tactile and the imagined.

*Metronome* is a dense matrix of thin stainless-steel tubing. Within this structure, a convex form made up of a large number of torn pieces of paper and card resembles a section of a globe or planet. Unlike a conventional globe however, it is open and dynamic. Substantial though the structure is, it is also fragile, alluding to the thin membrane of life on the surface of our planet that scientists refer to as ‘the critical zone’. Both the ‘globe’ and the walls and ceiling of the space are illuminated by fragments of moving images beamed from 42 video projectors installed in the structure to create a vast magic lantern.

Sze’s work conveys the velocity and volatility of life in the age of the smartphone. The writer Zadie Smith recently compared the experience of Sze’s installations as like being in an opened-up iPhone, with the technology taken apart and the image bank it stores exploded into three-dimensional space. Local and global, the momentous and the incidental are held in a precarious equilibrium.

Sarah Sze said: *“I’ve always been interested in certain times throughout history where our relationship to the way we experience time and space in the world speeds up radically. The invention of the aeroplane, the invention of the train, you see really interesting work coming out of that time, in film, visual arts and writing. We are in the middle of an extreme hurricane where we are learning to speak through images at an exponential pace.”*

James Lingwood and Michael Morris, Associate Directors of Artangel, said: *“Sarah Sze creates dynamic sculptural environments that somehow account for the vertiginous experience of living on our fragile planet. We’re delighted Artangel is premiering what promises to be an extraordinary new work in London.”*

**Sarah Sze – The Waiting Room**

19 May – 17 September 2023

The Waiting Room, Peckham Rye Station  
London SE15 4RX

<https://www.artangel.org.uk>

**Opening Times**

Wednesday-Saturday: 12.00 – 20.00

Sunday: 11.00 – 17.00

FREE ENTRY

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Sarah Sze**

Since her first exhibitions in the late 1990s, the New-York based artist Sarah Sze has developed a distinctive sculptural language that challenges the static nature of sculpture and immerses audiences in complex, dynamic environments.

Sze studied architecture, began working as an artist by making paintings, and then developed a sculptural practice that brings together fragile structures, found objects and video footage into large-scale installations. Her extraordinary sprawling installation *Triple Point* was first exhibited at the 2013 Venice Biennale, where Sze represented the United States.

In recent years, the proliferation of images, still and moving, in everyday life has become a significant part of a series of new installations, which Sze refers to as *Timekeepers*. These sculptures have been exhibited at museums and galleries around the world, including Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; Copenhagen Contemporary, Denmark; Haus Der Kunst, Munich; Fondation Cartier, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto.

Sze has also created substantial permanent works for La Guardia Airport, New York, the city's Second Avenue Subway Station and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Fallen Sky*, a permanent site-specific sculpture, opened at Storm King Art Center in New York State in 2021. *Time Lapse*, a new exhibition of Sze's work opens at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York on March 31, 2023.

**The Waiting Room, Peckham Rye Station**

Peckham Rye Station was designed by architect Charles Driver and opened to the public in 1865. The size of the waiting room was reflected the fact that at this time Peckham Rye Station was one of the largest railways stations in the rail network in England.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Waiting Room was repurposed as a billiards hall, before closing in 1962, and it has remained inaccessible to the public for the past 60 years. Over the past 5 years, parts of the original station have undergone extensive restoration, including the Waiting Room, which will be open to the public for the first time in over 60 years.

### **Artangel**

Artangel produces and presents extraordinary art in unexpected places across London, the UK, and beyond. For over thirty years, Artangel has generated some of the most widely discussed art of recent times, including prominent large-scale projects with artists who have become household names in the UK, including the likes of Jeremy Deller, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, Steve McQueen and Rachel Whiteread.

Recent Artangel projects include Taryn Simon's *An Occupation of Loss*, Evan Roth's *Red Lines*, Jonathan Glazer's short film *STRASBOURG 1518*, made for the BBC, Steve McQueen's *Year 3*, in collaboration with Tate Britain and A New Direction, Elizabeth Price's *SLOWDANS*, Oscar Murillo's *Frequencies*. Marcus Coates' *The Directors* and *Afterness* on Orford Ness, Suffolk. For more information on Artangel, please visit [artangel.org](http://artangel.org)

### **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Bloomberg Philanthropies' support of Sarah Sze's new work continues more than 20 years of collaboration between Artangel and Bloomberg, including Francis Alÿs' *Seven Walks*, Janet Cardiff's *The Missing Voice (Case Study B)*, Steve McQueen's *Year 3* and Oscar Murillo's *Frequencies*.

For more information on Bloomberg Philanthropies, please visit [Bloomberg.org](http://Bloomberg.org) or follow on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and LinkedIn.