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## **New installations unveiled at Canterbury Cathedral**

On Saturday 26 May, Canterbury Cathedral will become home to a series of large-scale installations by international glass artists Baldwin & Guggisberg for the exhibition *Under an Equal Sky*. The exhibition will continue until 11 November this year.

Programmed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, *Under an Equal Sky* will take visitors on a journey round the Cathedral that begins with a 20-metre installation of 100 glass amphorae suspended in the shape of a ship and ends with a glass wall filled with multi-coloured vessels.

*Under an Equal Sky* brings together 10 new works reflecting on themes of war and remembrance, and asks the viewer to consider in particular the civilian casualties of war as well as the importance of community and empathy for others. Baldwin & Guggisberg work mostly in glass, an ancient medium that has changed little in hundreds of years and lends itself to story-telling in an ecclesiastical setting. Using the symbolism of boats and empty vessels, their work brings to mind some of the familiar images of our times: refugees packed into boats fleeing for their lives, and migrants seeking new horizons.

Canterbury Cathedral, its rich history and community, is central to the exhibition. The Cathedral Crypt provided sanctuary for the Huguenots in the 16th and 17th centuries when they were fleeing persecution in Europe and their descendants still worship in French there every week.

The exhibition coincides with the Cathedral's five-year, £25 million programme of essential conservation work made possible thanks to a £13.8m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, match-funded by Canterbury Cathedral Trust through private donors and benefactors. Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg comment: *'The focal point of the exhibition, Boat of Remembrance, would not have been possible if it hadn't been for the Nave roof being covered by a safety deck, giving us the perfect hanging opportunity. In some ways the restoration project has been the making of the show. The building is a World Heritage site and so it's been a challenge – but also an honour – making pieces that work with the space.'*

*Under an Equal Sky* opens with *Boat of Remembrance*, an installation in the Cathedral's Nave of 100 clear glass amphorae hanging in the shape of a ship, each one representing

a year of remembrance but also underscoring the continuing consequences of war: the 22.5 million people forcibly displaced from their homes and seeking safety abroad (according to UNHCR statistics), as well as those who are still losing their lives in conflict.

Other highlights include a series of four glass sentinels, *The Four Assassins*, positioned close to the site of Thomas Becket's murder in 1170, which the artists see as representing that inner voice of conscience that helps distinguish right from wrong; *Ordnance Boat*, a glass-sided barque filled with used ammunition, which is the artists' rebuttal to the use of euphemisms such as 'collateral damage'; and *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*, a triptych in the Cathedral's Eastern Crypt that reflects on the challenges of future change.

Baldwin & Guggisberg have also collaborated with the Cathedral's stonemasons to create *The Stone Boat* crafted from Caen stone. Working with craftspeople whose skills have been practised in the Cathedral for hundreds of years and using the material from which the building itself was made, the artists have found a way of binding the Cathedral community past and present – as well as themselves – into a single work.

The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral comments: *'During a time of reconstruction and restoration for the Cathedral, it is wonderful for us to have this opportunity to help people in body, mind and spirit to explore this place and discover new aspects of the message it seeks to convey. We are deeply grateful to Philip and Monica for this gift of their creativity and vision.'*

Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg have lived and worked together for nearly 40 years, in Sweden, Switzerland, France and now in rural Wales. They work predominantly in glass, and exhibit all over the world. They are represented in numerous private and museum collections internationally.

*Baldwin & Guggisberg: Under an Equal Sky*, a series of installations for Canterbury Cathedral, runs from 26 May to 11 November 2018.

**[www.baldwinguggisberg.com](http://www.baldwinguggisberg.com) and [www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org)**

**ENDS**

**For more press information, please contact Iliana Taliotis on +44 (0)7931 341 112 or [mail@ilianataliotis.com](mailto:mail@ilianataliotis.com)**

**Notes to editors**

**About Baldwin & Guggisberg**

Philip Baldwin (b1947) was born in New York; Monica Guggisberg (b1955) in Bern, Switzerland. Both are old enough to have been born in the shadow of the Second World War. While Monica grew up in a country that has the honour of being the oldest neutral country in the world, Philip's early memories are filled with the stories of relatives who

were wounded or did not return. They have worked as a team since 1980 after learning to blow glass in Sweden, and now live in rural Wales. Describing themselves as ‘migratory creatures’, they exhibit all over the world. They have always travelled, absorbing new thinking and influences as they go, taking their culture, skills and ideas for new work with them.

### **About Canterbury Cathedral**

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Mother Church for millions of Anglicans worldwide and a living, working church where the rhythm of worship is celebrated daily. Since the Middle Ages, visitors have been making their way to the Cathedral and today nearly one million people visit every year, making the Cathedral one of the most visited places in the UK.

In addition to its beautiful and extraordinary mix of architectural styles, the Cathedral also houses one of the most important collections of early medieval stained glass windows in the country. Together with St Augustine’s Abbey and St Martin’s Church, the Cathedral is part of Canterbury’s UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**[www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org)**

### **Cathedral and exhibition opening hours**

Weekdays and Saturdays 9am to 5.30pm (the Crypt from 10am). Last entry 30 mins before closing.

Sundays 12.30pm to 2.30pm, including the Crypt. Last entry 30 mins before closing. Normal Precincts charges apply during the exhibition. Please check the website for any closures due to services, events or conservation work.