



2007

## Thomas Schütte's Fourth Plinth Sculpture Unveiled in Trafalgar Square



Thomas Schütte, Model for a Hotel 2007, Glass.

**LONDON.**-Model for a Hotel 2007, which has been created by the leading German artist Thomas Schütte for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, was unveiled by the Mayor of London. The glass sculpture is an architectural model of a twenty-one storey building, constructed in specially engineered red, yellow and blue glass and weighing over 8 tonnes.

Thomas Schütte said: 'I was really pleased to win the Fourth Plinth Commission. Developing a sculpture for such a well-known iconic place in London has been a thought-provoking creative challenge. This year I have had two shows in the UK and now to have this ambitious new project realised is very rewarding.'

The Mayor of London Ken Livingstone said: 'London is known around the world for its historic buildings, but also increasingly for its groundbreaking modern architecture and this new work for the Fourth Plinth – set within the traditional surroundings of Trafalgar Square - encapsulates this mix. Thomas Schütte's sculpture is very different from the previous work on the Fourth Plinth - the use of colour will provide a striking contrast to its surroundings and I am certain that Model for a Hotel 2007 will generate a huge amount of discussion.'

Sandy Nairne, Chairman of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group and Director of the National Portrait Gallery, said: 'Thomas Schütte's Model for a Hotel is another ambitious and powerful sculpture from an artist of international importance. The Fourth Plinth has become an exciting point of focus for new art in London and demonstrates wide public interest in the creative process.'

Thomas Schütte, born in Oldenburg, Germany in 1954, is one of the most significant artists of his generation. Since the 1970s he has produced a diverse body of work, including figurative sculpture, architectural models and ceramics as well as watercolours. Thomas Schütte was included in 2005's Venice Biennale where he was awarded The Golden Lion. He has had numerous exhibitions in museums worldwide, including Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, and ARC, Paris in 1990, the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, 1998, three exhibitions at New York's DIA Centre for Contemporary Art between 1998 and 1999 and exhibitions at the Frith Street Gallery and the Henry Moore Institute in 2007. He lives and works in Düsseldorf.

Sarah Weir, Executive Director, Arts Council England, London, said: 'We are delighted to continue to work in partnership with the Mayor's Office to bring great art to more people. Our investment in this flagship project supports the public programme, encouraging debate and engagement with the highest quality contemporary visual arts. We look forward to seeing how people respond to this inspiring work as it takes its place on the historic Fourth Plinth.'

Welcoming the new art work on the Fourth Plinth, Visit London's Chief Executive James Bidwell said: 'There's no doubt that the Fourth Plinth has brought a new dimension to the Trafalgar Square experience and its attraction for visitors. Art and culture are among the main drivers for bringing people to the city, from abroad as well as other parts of the UK. This new work of art is bound to be a big draw for international and domestic visitors alike.'

The Fourth Plinth Programme sees new artwork being selected for the vacant plinth in a rolling programme of new commissions. The scheme was initiated in 1998 by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. In 1999 responsibility for Trafalgar Square was transferred to the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority. The first new commission for the Fourth Plinth under the auspices of the Mayor of London's Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group was Marc Quinn's sculpture, Alison Lapper Pregnant, which was unveiled in a public ceremony in September 2005.