



FULL CIRCLE KNUT HENRIK HENRIKSEN

King's Cross St. Pancras Underground station 2009

Full Circle is the first permanent artwork to be installed in London Underground since the 1980s. It has been created especially for King's Cross St. Pancras Underground station as an integral part of the station upgrade; an enormous undertaking that includes two new ticket halls and several new pedestrian tunnels. It is the first in a series of major new permanent commissions to be delivered by Art on the Underground alongside its award winning temporary programme.

Situated at the end of the new concourse for the Northern line, Full Circle is an elegant sculpture that reflects the unique context of the impressive station and its distinctive architectural style and language.

The size and form of Henriksen's sculpture is frequently defined by the architectural specificities, such as the height, depth and materials, of a given location. The starting point in this case is the circular end wall of the concourse tunnel. The circle is truncated where it meets the floor, implying a 'lost' segment of circle beneath. This segment has been 'reinstated'; conceptually exhumed by Henriksen, and mounted as an integral architectural feature of the end wall. It is fabricated by the station upgrade contractor, from the same materials (shot-peened stainless steel) as the wall itself, as if incognito, yet elegantly obvious.

The precise positioning of the segment is, for Henriksen, the final of a sequence of decisions informed by the physical and architectural constraints of the site that he uses as his guiding principals. Its curved side rests on the floor, with one tip leaning against the arc of the tunnel wall. It sits as if put to one side for a later collection or re-positioning. This apparent casualness offers a human gesture in a highly modernised, streamlined, functional environment.

Henriksen's practise draws, to some extent, on a powerful preoccupation with architecture as well as the continuing influence upon it and contemporary art of 20th century Modernism. The influence of European Modernism is also predominant in London Underground, particularly since the era of Frank Pick, Managing Director in 1930s and Charles Holden, the architect for many Tube stations and other London Underground buildings around the same period. Since then, excellence in art and design has underpinned London Underground's internationally renowned identity. Art on the Underground continues an established tradition of working with the best artists to add value to Tube's service and to reinforce its cultural contribution to London. Full Circle brings this tradition right up to date and leads the way for the future.

tfl.gov.uk/art