



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Mhairi Vari Unveils Site-Specific Installation Event '**SOUTHERN OUTFALL**' at Historic Crossness Pumping Station

*Exploring energy, history, and human connection at London's 'Cathedral on the Marsh'*

**LONDON, UK – April 10, 2025** – Artist Mhairi Vari invites visitors to experience **SOUTHERN OUTFALL**, a new site-specific installation transforming spaces within and around the magnificent Crossness Pumping Station on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, also featuring Oscar Nearly with Hannah James-Scott, Liam Scully.

Mhairi developed **SOUTHERN OUTFALL** over three years as a volunteer and resident artist at the site. The work delves into the cycles of energy, history, and human activity that define this unique industrial heritage landmark.

'Southern Outfall' is the name for the confluence of sewer lines from across south London—where things come together and continue on. It is this cycle of energy, coalescing and redistributing within a system, that has engaged Mhairi, currently completing a PhD in music and sound arts at the University of Greenwich.

"The abstract and playful works that constitute **SOUTHERN OUTFALL** go in some way to explore and celebrate that huge collective effort—marking 40 years of voluntary activity here, in this the 160th year since the beam engines began operation," explains Mhairi.

**SOUTHERN OUTFALL** examines Mhairi's relationship to Crossness through the overlapping lenses of the physical space and volunteer action essential to its continuing purpose. It moves beyond viewing Crossness as a static historical institution, instead presenting it as a dynamic entity, continually redefined. Using video, sound, and sculpture, incorporating visual cues like hi-vis orange workwear and parallels with tai chi's flowing movements, Mhairi offers a fresh interpretation shaped by personal experience.

**SOUTHERN OUTFALL** invites visitors into the microworld of the gut and the macroworld of the sewer system, exploring layers of human activity amidst the pumps, ornate ironwork, and rust. Born in crisis 160 years ago, Crossness fused art and industry before falling into decay. Mhairi's practice reveals Crossness anew, stirred not by industry's roar, but by the persistent pulse of volunteer care, transfiguring its service into something living and sublime.

**SOUTHERN OUTFALL** is a sensitive exploration and celebration of all therein. Please join us in discovering the 'Cathedral on the Marsh', the **SOUTHERN OUTFALL**.





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### Event Details:

- **What:** **SOUTHERN OUTFALL** — a site-wide work by Mhairi Vari
- **When:** Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Where:** Crossness Pumping Station, Bazalgette Way, Abbey Wood, London SE2 9AQ
- **Tickets:** Book via [crossness.org.uk](https://crossness.org.uk)
- **Transport:** Shuttle bus service from/to Abbey Wood Station (Elizabeth Line/National Rail). Free parking on Bazalgette Way.

Throughout the day, visitors will have the chance to experience the installation in the atmospheric setting of Crossness, speak to Mhairi about her work, and explore the site itself. A vintage Routemaster shuttle bus, courtesy of the London Bus Company, will run and our RANG narrow-gauge railway will be in operation. Bexley Brewery will be hosting a beer stand on site.

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**About Mhairi Vari:** Having struggled with the confines of galleries and studio Mhairi has developed an expanded art practice in site-specific installation-making work for locations ranging from: agricultural barns to the damp cellars of a Georgian town house; from the oldest building in Hackney to the King William Court in the Old Royal Naval College. Mhairi is the only artist ever to have installed work on the iconic Lloyds Building for 'Sculpture in the City', has placed a sculpture within the Economist Plaza, Picadilly, and for Coventry Biennial made work that entwined its way through multiple sites: an old shopping arcade, the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, and a redundant NHS drugs rehabilitation centre.

She has a geeky interest in industrial heritage and the seeking of new meaning in these once-functional sites.

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