
As a contribution to the International Year of Peace in 1983 the Greater London Council, later abolished by the Thatcher government, initiated the creation of six murals on the theme of 'peace through nuclear disarmament'. Around the same time a number of local authorities supported 'peace inspired' artistic activity

Riders of the Apocalypse, New Cross

Nuclear Dawn, Brixton

Peace Carnival, Dalston

Nuclear Shadows, Crowndale Road London NW1

Peace Garden, Cromer Street London WC1 - The four mosaics were the theme of peace and included, in the words of those who made the mosaics:

The poppies flowered in the horror of the trenches of WW1.

The dove is the most universal symbol of Peace.

The Crane is a symbol of peace in Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear warfare.

The Peacock shows the beauty of the living world

The lost murals

PLANET HACKNEY – GRAND UNION CRESCENT: This project was the brainchild of a group of housemates, who convinced the shop-keeper living opposite to donate his wall. The wall was selected for attention after a series of crimes in the area prompted the group of friends to try to draw together the local community. "Things like this can bring something positive to the area", explains Levi Cross, one of the designers of the mural. "We're trying to get people to take pride in where they live. People have been saying it's about time something happened to that wall. " Work on the mural started on 1 September 2012 and was completed on September the 8th. Architect Jurek Fryczkowski has been the main artist involved in bringing the mural to life. "It's like a fireball that breaks through the dilapidated wall and shows the fire of creativity behind every wall waiting to be discovered", explains Fryczkowski.

HALE STREET (OFF POPLAR HIGH STREET) E14 0AF: This mural, on the wall of the [Tower Hamlets](#) Parks Department depot on Hale Street, commemorates the [Poplar Rates Rebellion](#), in which [Poplar](#) Borough Council refused to collect part of the [rates](#) payable by local residents, many of whom were living in extreme poverty. 30 local councillors - named on the mural – including [George Lansbury](#) (later leader of the [Labour Party](#) and Grandfather of Actress Angela Lansbury) were sent to prison for contempt of court, the men to [Brixton](#), the women to [Holloway](#). Despite this, Council meetings continued to be held, the female councillors taken by cab to Brixton Prison to meet their fellow tax rebels.

Originally painted by Mark Frances, the mural features four panels telling the story of the Rates Rebellion, mostly in words. It depicts George Lansbury and local residents holding 'Can't Pay Won't Pay' placards, in reference to the anti-[Poll Tax](#) campaign of the early 1990s, contemporaneous to when the mural was first completed. Names of the imprisoned Councillors feature along the bottom.

THE BATTLE OF CABLE STREET: Painted in 1980 the mural depicts the 1936 rally against fascist leader Oswald Mosley which is known as the Battle of Cable street.

Designed by Dave Binnington and completed by Paul Butler, the mural depicts the events of a very physical confrontation between police and protesters, anti-fascist protesters proudly carrying banners; punches being thrown; a barricade of furniture and an overturned vehicle across Cable Street manned by residents of all ages and ethnic backgrounds; a chamber pot being emptied from a first floor window onto BUF members below; marbles being thrown under the hooves of horses being ridden by baton-wielding police; a fascist, with a startling resemblance to Adolf Hitler, looking very alarmed in just his underwear and socks; a police autogyro overhead observing events. The mural has been vandalised a number of times, most notably in June 1993 when it was attacked with paint bombs. It was repaired at a cost of £19,000.00 by Paul Butler who suffered intimidation in the process.

RIDERS OF THE APOCALYPSE: *Sanford Walk, New Cross, London SE14 6N.* Painted by [Brian Barnes](#) with the help of Glenn Barnes, Jane Ray and Ray Walker. This mural is reminiscent of the iconic scene that concludes [Peter Sellers'](#) film *Dr Strangelove*. The brightly coloured mural features caricatures of former Prime Minister [Margaret Thatcher](#), the then head of state of the [USSR Yuri Andropov](#), ex US President [Ronald Reagan](#) and former Secretary of State for Defence [Michael Heseltine](#) looping around the globe on [cruise missiles](#), dollar bills and pound notes in their wake, on a collision course with the [CND peace signs](#) and white doves.

Riders of the apocalypse takes its name and central image from a woodcut by Albrecht Durer, *The four horsemen of the apocalypse* (1497). The mural was "opened" by Tony Banks, deputy leader of the GLC on 17th December 1983. The mural took 455 hours to paint, using keim paint, a type of paint originally developed to enable Italian style frescos to survive the harsh German weather.

HOKUSAI WAVE MURAL CAMBERWELL: *Coldharbour Place, Camberwell, SE5 .* A version of Japanese Artist [Hokusai's](#) [Great Wave off Kanagawa](#), an image very much recognised if not always identified. This version is actually reversed to make it appear as if the wave is about to crash into the alley. The piece was created in 1998 for the [Camberwell Arts Festival](#) by artist Domonic Swords who lived in the building at the time.

BRIXTON COLDHARBOUR LANE: In 1981, "Nuclear Dawn" was painted by [Brian Barnes](#), Dale McCrea and 20 residents of the building.

The mural depicts a large skeletal figure standing astride the city of London as a [nuclear bomb](#) goes off behind. Below him safely sheltered in [bunkers](#) below the [Houses of Parliament](#) sit the Government including leaders of the political parties of the time, the Prime Minister [Margaret Thatcher](#), [Ronald Reagan](#) and [Prince Charles](#). The skeletal figure is swathed in flags from countries with [nuclear weapons](#); bombs fall out of his hand with one hovering just above [Brixton](#). To the left, a dove flies up and becomes the [CND](#) symbol. In the cityscape, [Brixton](#) landmarks can be picked out including a mini version of the mural.

Brian's original mural design, painted with water colour and pen, can be viewed in the Print Room at the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#).

The mural was finished in 1981 and on 11th February, opened by [Hugh Jenkins](#), the then president for the [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament](#).

BRIXTON GLENELG RD: Designed in 1985 by artistic director of [Wandsworth arts](#), [Christine Thomas](#), and painted by community artists, [Diana Leary](#) and Dave Bangs together with local residents, this was a collective project. Local children were taken to the White City Leisure Pool so that photographs could be taken of them playing which could be used in the mural. Children's photos were also taken at a local special school as part of an inclusivity initiative.

Completed in December 1985 and opened by the mayor of [Lambeth](#), there is a water mill, people look out of the window; the old man in the top, wearing a blazer, had taken part in the [1948 Olympic Games](#) in [Hyde Park](#). Doves roost in the top of the building, the mural is teeming with wildlife; there are swallows, grebes, geese, butterflies, various flowers and plants. The river's water, based on the idea of the [River Effra](#), which was local to [Brixton](#). In the river, children play and on the closer river bank, many vases sit. This is the pottery painted by the women of the [Lambeth Doulton](#) pottery factory in [Vauxhall](#). In the mural, a woman sits painting a vase. This is a portrait of [Christine Thomas](#), the mural's creator.

BRIXTON WINDMILL MURAL LYHAM RD: Over the last few years, the [Brixton Windmill](#) has been repaired and is now considered an essential tourist attraction in London. Being the only inner city windmill left, it has a special place on the landscape and back in 1983 that was commemorated in a mural painting just around the corner from the windmill.

The piece was executed at the same time as the [Mauleverer Road mural](#) just around the corner. Two of the artists, Mick Harrison and Caroline Thorp, left working on this piece and started the windmill mural. The commission involved getting the local community involved and there are still people in the neighbourhood who remember painting it.

ACTUAL BRIXTON WINDMILL: Windmill Gardens, London SW2 5EU The mural can be found off Brixton Hill in Windmill Gardens, a small park on the west end of Blenheim Gardens. Windmill Gardens can also be accessed from Ramillies Close, off Lyham Road. The mural is located on a wall behind a playground adjacent to the Brixton Windmill.

Located near Brixton Windmill this 31 meter mural brightens up the playground in Windmill Gardens. Designed and painted by Camila Cardeñosa with the help of the local community the mural documents the history of the windmill in images and quotes.

The mural emerged out of the Hands on Windmill Gardens project, initiated in October 2012 by Camila, a Brixton resident and graphic designer. The aim of the project was to create a sense of ownership among local residents, help visitors engage with the history of the windmill and visually improve the playground area of the park. The project was launched in close collaboration with Lambeth Council, the local community group Friends of Windmill Gardens and the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has funded the restoration of the windmill in 2010.

Camila and Stephen Lawlor, Education Officer for the Brixton Windmill, designed the mural with input from the local community. The mural was painted throughout April 2013 by Camila with the help of volunteers. In order to give youngsters the chance to participate in the painting of the mural the parts closer to the ground were designed to be more detailed.

BATTERSEA: Tucked away in a corner of [Battersea](#) and located on what was once the Haberdashers Arms on [Dagnell Street](#), is the wonderful 'Battersea in Perspective' mural created by [Brian Barnes](#). Back in 1988, Brian contacted [Taylor Walker](#), the brewery owning the pub, and Battersea County School (as it was known then), and consulted local residents to develop a design that incorporated the community's ideas.

The design shows an aerial view southwards over the Battersea area, with [Battersea Park](#) and its [Peace Pagoda](#) central to the design, framed on either side by the [Chelsea](#) and [Albert](#) Bridges. Along the bottom of the mural are a number of portraits of famous locals.

Five of the area's former politicians are portrayed: [John Archer](#), Mayor of Battersea in 1914 and Britain's first elected politician of African descent; [John Burns](#), [trade unionist](#), socialist and Liberal MP for Battersea from 1892 to 1918, arrested, tried and acquitted in 1896 after a demonstration against unemployment ended in a riot during which the windows of the [Carlton Club](#) were broken; [Shapurji Saklatvala](#) born in [Mumbai](#), but elected as [Communist](#) MP for Battersea North in 1922 and jailed for two months in 1926 for making a speech supporting striking miners; [Baron Douglas Jay](#), elected Labour MP for Battersea North after winning a 1946 by-election, who went on to retain the seat for an astonishing 37 years until 1983, and who unveiled the mural on 10th August 1988; [Alf Dubs](#), originally of Jewish Czech descent, who arrived in Britain on the [Kindertransport](#) and went on to be a local MP in 1979, first in Battersea South, then in the combined post-1983 Battersea constituency which he held until 1987.

Also featured are [suffragette](#) and [Sinn Féin](#) activist [Charlotte Despard](#); Britain's first female pilot [Hilda Hewlett](#), born in nearby Vauxhall; [Pre-Raphaelite](#) artist [Evelyn de Morgan](#), whose painting '[Evening Star Over The Sea](#)' is reproduced at the top of the mural.

Battersea's industrial heritage is not neglected: one portrait depicts [Alliott Verdon Roe](#), the first Englishman to make a powered flight, and founder in 1910 of the AV Roe & Co. aircraft manufacturer (better known as [Avro](#)), who built his 'Bulls Eye' duplex triplane (pictured in the mural) in an arch beneath the nearby railway; similarly airborne in 'Battersea in Perspective' is one of the gas balloons built sometime around 1908 by Eustace and Oswald Short, founders of aircraft manufacturers [Short Brothers](#), who like Avro, started business in a Battersea railway arch.

DALSTON PEACE CARNIVAL MURAL: The mural, created by [Ray Walker](#), is a composition based on the 1983 Hackney Peace Carnival. In the picture, the procession has just gone past [Navarino Mansions](#) on Dalston Lane. [Trade union](#) banners are waved to the right and to the left, a giant puppet figure representing the [USSR](#) and [USA](#)'s nuclear squabble is carried by men wearing skeleton masks. A brass band plays at the front of the as people watch them go by.

The London Muralists for Peace was formed in November 1982 and commissioned to [create 6 murals](#) in London with the theme 'Peace through Nuclear Disarmament'. [Ray Walker](#)'s mural was one of the last to be started. However before he had a chance to really start painting, tragedy struck and he died of a heart attack at the young age of 39. From there, his friend Mike Jones and his wife, Ann Walker, stepped in to complete the work. The mural was opened in October 1985 by [Tony Banks](#), then chairman of GLC and significant supporter of London's mural scene.