

Fine art for Farringdon station

The Elizabeth line station at Farringdon is to get a striking makeover, thanks to artwork commissioned from a British artist.

THE permanent art installations, designed by Simon Periton, will brighten the station's two ticket halls. His work is inspired by the history of Farringdon.

The artwork at the eastern entrance will feature an intricate pattern, reflecting the elaborate Victorian metalwork of Smithfield Market directly opposite.

At the station's western entrance on Farringdon Road, large diamonds will appear to tumble down and around the escalators

in homage to the jewellers of nearby Hatton Gardens.

The two-metre-tall designs will be digitally printed on to the glass panels that line the walls, and will be backlit so they shimmer and appear 3D.

Artist Simon Periton said: 'I'm excited to have the chance to create a significant new piece of art for the station at Farringdon. I know the area well as I used to live nearby and still use the station often as a way into London. It's an incredibly interesting place with a rich and layered history that's continuing to evolve.'

'Part of the challenge has been to develop an artwork with Crossrail that reflects some of that history but also appears to change depending on where and when you are in the station, so people will enjoy it whether they are seeing it for the first time or during many visits.'

The artwork will be funded by Goldman Sachs and City of London Corporation and is the largest commission ever undertaken by Periton.



Did you know?

Works of public art will be integrated into seven new Elizabeth line stations in central London to create a line-wide exhibition that reflects the ambition of London's newest railway and the communities it serves. It will be called the Culture line.

The Elizabeth line will carry more than 200 million passengers a year when it opens in 2018.



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Immerse yourself in opera

LONDON commuters have inspired a new Silent Opera premiering at The Vaults Theatre, Waterloo.

Based on the reimaging of Janáček's classic opera Cunning Little Vixen, artistic director Daisy Evans found the inspiration for 'Vixen' by watching commuters on the Tube and bus on their way to work.

'Almost all of them are plugged into an iPod, a phone, a tablet; living in

their own head with their own personal soundtrack,' she said. 'I thought it would be amazing to harness that individual experience and put it to use with musical narrative.'

Performed in English, it will tell the story of Vixen, a young girl lost in London's streets. As part of the Silent Opera experience, the audience will be given headphones, which will let them hear a pre-recorded orchestra alongside live performances from opera singers. The production will be staged in several connecting rooms beneath Waterloo station.

■ **'Vixen' runs until Saturday June 10. Tickets cost £20-£40. For more information and to book tickets, visit www.thevaults.london/vixen**

Depot explorers

TREAT the kids to a behind-the-scenes tour of a working transport depot this half-term.

On a family tour around the Acton depot, visitors can discover some of the secrets behind London Transport Museum's fascinating collection of vehicles and memorabilia, hear about a Victorian train carriage that used to be someone's home and see a train that was driven by the Queen.

Guided tours last one hour and are suitable for children between five and 15. Adult tickets cost £5 and under-17s go free.

■ **Find out more at www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on**



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