

## Bow Arts brings Stephen Turner's Exbury Egg to Thamesmead as part of an International Project twinned with Venice for the 2019 Biennale



Exbury Egg 2013 © Nigel Rigden

### **Natura Prima?**

11 May – 26 July 2019, [opening Wednesday 8 May, 6-8pm](#)  
Istituzione Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Palazzetto Tito, Venice

### **Exbury Egg in Southmere Lake, Thamesmead**

July 2019 – July 2020, launching Saturday 6 July with the Thamesmead Festival

Bow Arts are thrilled to announce the coming of Stephen Turner and his famous Exbury Egg to their new Thamesmead site, the Lakeside Centre, as part of a partnership project with Fondazione Bevilacqua la Massa in Venice for this year's Biennale.

Turner's Exbury Egg – as featured on Channel 4's *Amazing Spaces* – was originally built in 2013 as a floating home to be situated on the Beaulieu River on the Exbury Estate, in which the artist would "live off the land" for a year. Turner, whose practice explores society's increasingly dissonant relationship with nature, has since toured the Egg across the country, opening it to the public as an emblematic platform to inspire waterside communities to explore and reconnect with their local environments. The Egg's mooring at Southmere Lake, Thamesmead will be her longest installation since Exbury. Its installation will form part of the launch of Bow Arts' new Lakeside Centre, a redevelopment in partnership with Peabody of the iconic 1960s Brutalist site, which boasts 40 new creative workspaces, an early years day nursery, a café and a training kitchen. Turner will be artist in residence at the Lakeside Centre across the summer.

Turner's retrospective exhibition *Natura Prima?* at Fondazione Bevilacqua la Massa opens with the 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, and launches his two twinned residencies in Giudecca, Venice – one of the last traditional Venetian communities – and Thamesmead, London. Turner will compare these two seemingly vastly different waterside communities, who in unique ways

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have both pitted human invention and ingenuity against incursion by the sea to sustain the presence of people. As the 'Eggman', the persona Turner has used throughout his Exbury Egg project, he will work with communities to reexamine their environments, exploring the impact and relationship between humans and nature.

In a distinctive effort Turner will connect two seemingly forgotten communities in two of Europe's richest cities, once again using his practice to challenge our attitude and relationship to overlooked natural environments.

**For further information and images please contact:**

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### About Bow Arts

Bow Arts is an arts education charity that provides affordable creative workspaces for over 500 emerging artists. Alongside this, Bow Arts manages one of the country's most exciting education programmes, which takes world-class artists into 90 schools to improve the lives and learning of children and young people. Bow Arts runs the Nunnery Gallery, a public gallery that supports a diverse range of high quality exhibitions and events as well as the delivery of a public arts programme. Established in 1995, Bow Arts holds an important place in east London which is fast becoming known as London's Artist Quarter. [www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org)



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