

THE OROZCO GARDEN: A PERMANENT GARDEN AT THE SOUTH LONDON GALLERY BY GABRIEL OROZCO

The South London Gallery's permanent garden was created over two years by the artist Gabriel Orozco, with support from 6a architects and horticulturists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Gabriel Orozco was born in Mexico and lives and works in New York, Paris and Mexico City. Orozco is one of the leading artists of his generation and has exhibited extensively internationally and periodically in London including a major mid-career retrospective at Tate Modern in 2011. He has never before designed a garden, but embraced the challenge of transforming a largely inaccessible paved area of land at the back of the SLG's main building into a unique sculptural work as part of his artistic practice.

Spanning sculpture, drawing, photography and video, much of Orozco's work stems from his idiosyncratic observations of contemporary urban environments, revealing poetry in unexpected locations or the often playful combination of everyday objects. The recurrence of circles in his work, whether in nature or man-made objects (puddles, balls, wheels), or within paintings and drawings, is carried through to his design for the garden. Establishing a tension between symmetry and asymmetry, a geometry of intertwining circles intricately outlined in brick dimensioned York stone subtly maps a series of discreet spaces or notional rooms. Each is lent its own distinctive character through slight shifts in form or by being at different levels, variously planted or featuring seating, a sink, water butt or welcome bowl built up from the stone bricks. The various levels and spaces can be used interchangeably for sitting, eating, playing or showing work by other artists, reflecting the multiple activities the garden will be used for. The choice of materials was drawn from the language of the gallery's Victorian building and includes bricks from the newly opened up rear facade. Playing on the idea of an urban ruin, the garden will continue to evolve to become rambling and overgrown with different grasses, low level creepers and fragrant plants.

An important feature of the garden is a planted walkway providing a direct point of access for residents of Sceaux Gardens housing estate, where the SLG has run art programmes for a number of years, including a welcome area called the Fox Reception. The garden is open to the public every weekend and will be used by invited groups during the week.

6a architects have a history of working with the SLG, having designed its award-winning 2010 expansion into a neighbouring house and the Clore education space. The practice is also working on the renovation of the former Peckham Road Fire Station, donated to the South London Gallery by an anonymous benefactor and due to open on 21 September 2018. 6a architects are known for their work with arts organisations and artists, with projects including the award-winning gallery Raven Row, Sadie Coles in Davies Street, Juergen Teller's studio and, currently in progress, the major expansion of Milton Keynes Gallery.

The garden is open every Saturday and Sunday, 10am-6pm.

Please contact mail@southlondongallery.org or ask at the reception for further details.

The South London Gallery is immensely grateful for the very generous support of all those who have funded the garden and would like to thank Arts Council England, Art Fund, Marian Goodman Gallery, Outset Young Production Fund, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts, Edwin Fox Foundation, The Henry Moore Foundation, Southwark Council's 'Cleaner Greener Safer' programme, The Ampersand Foundation, Finnis Scott Foundation, The London Community Foundation, The Panton Trust, Vicky Hughes, Catherine Petitgas and other donors.



PLANT LIST

Paving:

Alchemilla erythropoda (dwarf lady's mantle)
Soleirolia soleirolii (mind-your-own-business)
Thymus serpyllum (breckland thyme)
Viola hederacea (Australian violet)

Brick Hill:

Cerastium tomentosum (snow-in-summer)
Acer palmatum 'Dissectum' (Japanese maple)
Acer palmatum (Japanese maple)
Erigeron karvinskianus (Latin American fleabane)
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostrata' (creeping rosemary)
Sempervivum (mixed) (houseleeks)
Sedum spathulifolium purpureum (purple spoon-leaved stonecrop)
Asplenium trichomanoides (maidenhair spleenwort)

Central bed:

Alchemilla erythropoda (dwarf lady's mantle)
Corokia cotoneaster (wire-netting bush)
Coronilla valentina ssp. glauca (glaucous scorpion-vetch)
Nasella (Stipa) tenuissima (mexican feathergrass)
Podocarpus nivalis (snow totara)
Sesleria caerulea (blue moor-grass)
Thymus vulgaris (garden thyme)
Geranium macrorrhizum 'White-Ness' (big-root cranesbill 'White-Ness')

Tree bed:

Anemone nemerosa (wood anemone/lady's nightcap)
Anemone 'Wild Swan' (windflower 'Wild Swan')
Camassia cusickii (Cussick's camas)
Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum' (barrenwort 'Sulphureum'/bishop's mitre)
Hakonechloa macra (Japanese forest grass)
Helleborus x hybridus Harvington white (Lenten rose hellebore)
Magnolia x soulangeana (Chinese magnolia)

Pergola:

Alchemilla mollis (lady's mantle)
Clematis armandii (armand clematis)
Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum' (barrenwort 'Sulphureum'/ bishop's mitre)
Hakonechloa macra (Japanese forest grass)
Helleborus argutifolius (holly-leaved hellebore)
Ophiopogon japonicus (dwarf lilyturf)
Polystichum setiferum (soft shield fern)
Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary)
Salvia officinalis (common sage)
coronilla valentina ssp. glauca citrina (bastard senna 'Citrina')

Gallery wall:

Hakonechloa macra (Japanese forest grass)
Helleborus argutifolius (holly-leaved hellebore)
Sarcococca hookeriana var. digyna (sweet box)
Trachelospermum jasminoides (star jasmine)

College wall:

Camassia cusickii (cussick's camas)
Clematis armandii (armand clematis)
Cyclamen hederifolium 'Album' (ivy-leaved cyclamen/neapolitan cyclamen)
Hakea lissosperma (needlebush)
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' (golden hakonechloa)
Ophiopogon japonicus (dwarf lilyturf)
Prunus glandulosa 'Alba Plena' (Chinese bush cherry, dwarf flowering cherry)
Sarcococca hookeriana (sweet box)
Iberis sempervirens (evergreen candytuft/snowball candytuft)
Coronilla valentina subsp. Glauca 'Variegata' (bastard senna 'Variegata')

Welcome bowl:

Erigeron karvinskianus (Latin American fleabane)
Geranium phaeum 'Album' (cranesbill)
Organe mint
Lavandula angustifolia 'Arctic Snow' (lavender 'Arctic Snow')

Walkway:

Alchemilla mollis (lady's mantle)
Rosa 'Clair Austin' (rose 'Claire Austin')
Thymus serpyllum (breckland thyme)
Iberis sempervirens (evergreen candytuft/snowball candytuft)
Erigeron karvinskianus (Latin American fleabane)
Polystichum setiferum (soft shield fern)
Lonicera (honeysuckle)
Trachelospermum jasminoides (star jasmine)
Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum' (barrenwort 'Sulphureum'/bishop's mitre)

Planting schedule designed with support from horticulturists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

SLG

#SLGarden

Twitter @SLG_artupdates

Facebook South London Gallery

Instagram @southlondongallery

www.southlondongallery.org / mail@southlondongallery.org