



EXCAVATE

An Exhibition by GAIL DICKERSON

22 September 2024
10.30am - 3.00pm

BRUNEL MUSEUM SHAFT

**Railway Avenue,
Rotherhithe,
London, SE16 4LF**

A site-specific Art and Geology exhibition in the Brunel Museum Shaft showing collected earth samples of London's geological strata from two shaft sites along the Thames, a moving image work and drawings and paintings made with these earth samples.

There will also be a display by the London Geodiversity Partnership on the Geology of London and the River Thames.

From 2018 to 2024 I collected samples of the geological strata from the Thames Tideway Tunnel shaft excavation sites along the Thames. Geological samples from below Bermondsey were collected from the Chambers Wharf shaft site by corresponding with the engineers. I gradually managed to collect samples of the geology from the Man-made layer down to the Chalk at a depth of 64 metres below ground level. Samples of rock and sediment of various colour and texture were ground into earth pigments and used as paint or pastel on paper or canvas. Drawings and diagrams sometimes overlaid these works or were incorporated into a moving image film work to be projected straight onto the shaft wall. Parallels are made with Brunel's excavation of the Thames Tunnel by also displaying the collected geological samples from the shaft on the opposite side of the Thames at King Edward Memorial Park Foreshore in Wapping. Where with the help of the engineers and the project geologist Tim Newman, I again managed to

collect samples from the Alluvium down into the Chalk at 65 metres (BGL). Although the Thames Tideway Tunnel shaft is much deeper than Brunel's Thames Tunnel shaft, it is a starting point to enquire and experience the layers that are below the Brunel Tunnel shaft and the often man-made ground that we walk on. It also explores the time scales that modern tunnelling often cuts through or is excavated into to build our modern cities.

TALKS

12.15 'Bringing Back Geology to the Shaft' by Artist Gail Dickerson

12.20pm A Rubbly Thames: Dirt and Debris by Geologist Dr Ruth Siddall (London Geodiversity Partnership).

12.25pm Poet Tom Chivers (tbc)