

Under embargo until 00:01 on Wednesday 14 June 2023

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission releases film to mark the sixth anniversary of the tragedy

‘With all the chaos, the one thing that could calm us was art...’

These are the words spoken by one of the local artists who appear in the Memorial Commission’s moving video message, released on 14 June 2023, six years after the Grenfell Tower fire tragically took 72 lives.

The film features several individual local artists, volunteers and supporters of the Memorial Commission, speaking poignantly about the healing, absorbing and reflective power of art and nature. Those featured included:

- ACAVA’s ‘Walking as One’ – Grenfell Memorial Community Mosaic (2018–2022)
- ‘Silent Art’
- ‘Art for Silchester’
- Constantine Gras
- Hope Gardens

Also featured is Lord Paul Boateng (Memorial Commission co-chair) and Andrea Newton, one of the Memorial Commission’s community representatives).

In the Memorial Commission’s first report, published in May last year, we spoke about the future memorial including artwork to help honour all that has been lost, and to help hold the anguish of our community with dignity, gentleness and grace. Incorporating artwork is a popular idea, mentioned to us by around a third of bereaved families, survivors, those who lost their homes, local residents and members of the local community.

Art is a representation of life’s experience. We believe that by creating something permanent and tangible, those who have been most deeply affected can begin to process their grief.

The Memorial Commission’s community representatives said:

‘Six years on, the pain caused by the tragedy at Grenfell Tower remains difficult to bear for those of us most deeply affected.

‘We are here to create a memorial that our community has been at the forefront of, to remember and to honour the loved ones who can no longer be with us.

‘Our film recognises some of the community members behind some of the incredibly special projects that, since 14 June 2017, have been helping to bring people together to recover through creation.’

The Memorial Commission’s co-chairs, Thelma Stober and Paul Boateng, said:

‘Six years after the tragedy, we remember and honour those who lost their lives – you are forever in our hearts.

'We are humbled and proud to be supporting the Memorial Commission in developing a memorial that reflects the voices and needs of this incredible community. We promise never to forget.'

So far, the Memorial Commission has spoken with more than 2,000 individuals, including 29 out of the 43 bereaved families. We continue to speak with those affected and want to hear as many voices as possible by early July.

We plan to publish our final report in the autumn.

Further information:

- The Memorial Commission's film will be available in the news section of their website from 8am time on 14 June 2023: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news
- The film was filmed during May 2023 by production company bigSmall TV.
- Read and download the May 2022 report at: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/report
- The Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission comprises ten [community representatives](#) made up of five bereaved family members, three former residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk who lost their homes, and two residents from the Lancaster West Estate. This composition of community representatives enables the bereaved to have the majority say. Community representatives were selected by the bereaved families, survivors and local residents.
- The Memorial Commission's [co-chairs](#), Thelma Stober and Paul Boateng, set the direction of the Memorial Commission's work and oversee our work.
- The Memorial Commission is working closely with the bereaved families, survivors and the community to decide the most fitting and appropriate way to remember those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy, and how the memorial site will be owned and managed in the long term.
- If you are a bereaved family member, survivor or local resident, the Memorial Commission is keen to speak to you in whichever way works best of you, including whichever language you are most comfortable with. The Memorial Commission has been reaching out to families and others regularly. Please see the contact page of our website for other ways to get in touch: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact.
- Information about the Memorial Commission can be found at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk, and on Instagram and Twitter (@GrenfellTowerMC)
- The Memorial Commission is not responsible for deciding the future of Grenfell Tower. The government owns the Grenfell Tower site and is responsible for its safety and security. No decision has been made about the future of the Tower. For more information go to www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates.

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