

# KOLKATA – INDIA

## The 25 Paintings – World Tour: 2016

Bill Drummond is on a twelve-year world tour. In each of those years Bill Drummond will work in a different city in a different country. The tour started in 2014 and the tour will end in 2025.

The title of the tour is: The 25 Paintings – World Tour

The tour reaches Kolkata in India on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. This is the third leg of tour. The tour began in Birmingham, England in 2014. Last year it passed through Belgrade, Serbia (2015). Next year it might reach Memphis, Tennessee, but it could be Lexington, North Carolina, either way the tour will arrive in the USA at some point in 2017.

God willing, the tour ends in Damascus, Syria in the year 2025.

On this tour Bill Drummond is working on an evolving list of jobs. He calls them jobs. Others may use another noun, like 'works' 'events' or 'performances'

Most of these jobs are very simple and do not require high degrees of craft or artistic talent to be done. They exist more as symbolic acts. As yet Bill Drummond is unsure of what these acts may symbolise, or if in fact they mean anything. He hopes to learn from others during the progress of The 25 Paintings – World Tour.

For each of these jobs there are corresponding Penkiln Burn Posters, that explain what the job is and how it works and in which way members of the public can or cannot interact with them. As of now all of these are only in English and Serbian. But over the next four weeks they will be translated into Bangla. You will be sent PDFs of these as soon as the Bangla translations have been done. Bill Drummond will want to have a few copies of both the English and the Bangla versions of these poster printed in Kolkata. These he may use to fly post on wall and give away to those he is working with in the city.

Penkiln Burn is the name of a small river in Scotland where Bill Drummond used to play and catch fish. It is also the name of his ongoing publishing house that he uses to publish all his work since 1998. From here on in the Penkiln Burn Posters will be referred to as PB Posters.

The 25 Paintings alluded to in the title of the tour, are 25 canvases, all of the same size and dimensions (1,190mm X 1,350mm). The 25 Paintings have existed since the year 2001. The subject matter of the paintings is simple text. The text is directly connected to the 'jobs'. Thus the paintings work as 'markers, signposts or adverts' for each of the jobs, but... Each time a job is

completed or abandoned or re-thought the canvas is repainted with new words. During the process of the world tour, all of the canvases are re-painted in the language spoken in the city that world tour has arrived in.

You will also receive a PDF file of the artwork for The 25 Paintings in Bangla and their English translations.

Within The 25 Paintings only the three primary colours plus black and white are used. And the colours are never mixed. The paintings are very simple.

As of right now (25 October 2016), Bill Drummond is repainting the 25 canvases. They were in Serbian for the Belgrade leg of the tour, they are now in the process of becoming Bengali. Sadly because of the size of the canvases, The 25 Paintings themselves will not be traveling to Kolkata. The day before Bill Drummond leaves for Kolkata (Sunday 4 December), he will take The 25 Paintings in his van from his flat in London to Spaghetti Junction in Birmingham. Here The 25 Paintings will be photographed and filmed under Spaghetti Junction.

Spaghetti Junction is many things, it is also considered by Bill Drummond to be the hub of The 25 Paintings – World Tour. This is a link to the Wikipedia page about Spaghetti Junction:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravelly\\_Hill\\_Interchange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravelly_Hill_Interchange)

Bill Drummond also likes to think of Spaghetti Junction as an entrance to the Underworld.

The 25 Paintings also have a double life as wall paintings in the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. These are also being painted right now. Bill Drummond has an ongoing working relationship with a group of artists in Haiti.

Photographic evidence of The 25 Paintings under Spaghetti Junction and in their double life existence in Haiti, will be brought to Kolkata.

Bill Drummond has been writing this in the third person. He will now switch to the first person.

I will be working in Kolkata, India between the 6<sup>th</sup> of December and the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. In that time I hope to have a working relationship with Tandra Chanda & Pulak Ghosh at the Green Wave Centre for Visual Arts. And I hope to be working with the students at the Green Wave Centre. I understand that these pupils are from the age of 5 to 20 and that the school is a voluntary set up and is only in operation over the weekends. Tandra Chanda is an artist in her own right working in various media but especially stained glass.

These are the details for Green Wave Centre for Visual Arts:

Address: 7/1A Asgar Mistry Lane, Kolkata

Telephone: 0091 98311 95570

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/gwcfva/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/gwcfva/about/?ref=page_internal)

Website: <http://www.tandrachandaglassart.com/contacts.php>

Travelling with me to Kolkata will be:

**Tracey Moberly** – She is a Welsh artist. Tracey and I have worked closely with each other over the past 16 years. She will be in Kolkata to document some of what I do using still photography. Tracey Moberly's own practice as an artist is far wider than the work she does with me.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tracey\\_Moberly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tracey_Moberly)

**Paul Duane** – He is an Irish film director. We have not worked together before but he wants to make a documentary film about the work that I will be doing in Kolkata this year (2016) and in the USA next year (2017). Paul Duane and I have had ongoing and lengthy discussions about this proposed film over the past three years. I trust Paul Duane.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Duane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Duane)

**Robbie Ryan** – He is an Irish cinematographer. He has worked with Paul Duane on several occasions. I have only met Robbie Ryan once.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robbie\\_Ryan\\_\(cinematographer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robbie_Ryan_(cinematographer))

The film that Paul Duane is planning on making has not been commissioned by me. Paul Duane is working for himself. It is a zero budget film. Robbie Ryan is working in partnership with Paul Duane. I have agreed for this film to be made, but at the same time we are separate entities with differing agendas. I want to get my jobs done – Paul Duane wants to make a film, a film that people will want to watch. I am happy for Paul Duane to make this film even though I have issues about being filmed. Paul Duane and I have a good working relationship.

From here on in I will give a day by day break down in what I would like to achieve in Kolkata starting on the day before we leave.

# THE ITINERARY

This is the itinerary for working life between Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of December and Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. I will be working with Tracey Moberly, Paul Duane and Robbie Ryan in Birmingham and Kolkata. Paul is a film director. Robbie is a cinematographer. They are to be making a film about what I am doing in Kolkata

These are their phone numbers:

Tracey Moberly:

Paul Duane:

Robbie Ryan:

(this is an Irish number.)

## **Sunday 4 December:**

10:00 Pick up Tracey

10:15 Pick up Robbie Ryan

From

Above

north of the canal

Drive up to Spaghetti Junction, Birmingham with BEST BEFORE DEATH painting in back of van. With me will be Tracey Moberly and Robbie Ryan. We will be met by Paul Duane in Birmingham. I will paint BEST BEFORE DEATH under Spaghetti Junction. I will then throw the BEST BEFORE DEATH canvas into the canal. I will then strip off. I will then put on my brand new pair of Levis. I will then fully submerge myself in the canal to christen the brand new pair of Levis. I will then climb out of the canal. Get dried. Get dressed. Pack up van. We will then drive back to London and spend the night in our respective lodgings. This is a round trip of 240 miles.

## **Monday 5 December:**

09:30 Tracey Moberly and I meet outside King's Cross Station.

They get the Piccadilly Line to Heathrow Terminal 3.

10:40 Tracey Moberly and I will arrive at Heathrow Terminal 3. Make contact with Paul Duane and Robbie Ryan.

They all check in for flight Emirates-EK 2 to Dubai, UAE

13:40 Flight departs

## **Tuesday 6 December:**

**00:40 Flight arrives at Dubai, UAE**

**02:00 Flight Emirates-EK 570 departs for Kolkata, India**

07:40 Flight arrives at Kolkata, India  
We get taxis to our accommodation  
Paul Duane and Robbie Ryan will be staying in an AirBnB, not far from the Green Wave Centre.  
Tracey Moberly and I will be staying at the

After we have checked into our accommodation and rested our bodies, we would like to meet up with Tandra Chanda and her colleague(s) and discuss plans and how things might work.

tandra chanda < \_\_\_\_\_ >†  
Tandra's phone number:

From here on with this text I will be addressing Tandra Chanda directly.

I will be bringing with me certain tools of my trade, other tools and supplies I will need to source locally, thus I would like to get Tandra's input on this. I will also be bringing with me baking trays to bake cakes, wool and knitting needles, The Lone Sweepers hat, shoe polish and shoe cleaning brushes, acrylic paint and brushes.

I would like to employ two or three of the older students from the Green Wave Centre to work with me through the week as a translator and guide. Both male and female if possible, but not essential.

MAKE SOUP – On the Tuesday evening, I would like to make soup for Tandra Chanda and her family and friends or other invited guests. This could be either at the Green Wave Centre or at her (or others) home. Over the soup making and the taking of the soup I would like to discuss and debate what all of this might be about and what it is not and where it is failing and how it could be better. And I will be very much open to ideas and general criticism. And of course praise.

I will buy all the ingredients to make the soup at a local market. I might need to borrow, utensils to prepare and serve the soup. The soup making began in Belfast in 1998. The soup will be vegetarian. I will do the washing up.

I will not be able to make soup for more than 17 people.

See PB Posters 54 & 507

I will also want to interview Tandra Chanda for Forty Minutes

See PB Poster 553

**Wednesday 7 December:**

The rest of Tuesday daytime will also be taken up with sourcing materials and tools. This will include wood and tools to make the bed; a large drum to bang; ingredients and utensils to bake cakes, and a small oven to bake them in; a broom for The Lone Sweeper to sweep the streets; fishing rod and tackle to go fishing with; a tin of grey paint; and two large empty but water tight oil drums and rope.

**BANG DRUM** – This will be done at night. It is my ceremonial march into the city. This march may be no longer than one mile. It will be along a busy street. This is what I will need the large drum for, as I will not be able to bring my own drum. PB Poster 496 & 522

### **Thursday 8 December:**

**BLOW HORN** – Early morning I will want to do this from the top of a local building, using a traffic cone as the horn. The job only takes as long as it takes to get to the top of the building and for Tracey to take the photo. It should be done at dawn. It is being done to welcome in the day. See PB Poster 497 & 523

**MAKE BED.** The rest of the day will be spent making the bed in a street near the Green Wave Centre. For this my assistant / translator will need to be there with me to selling the (free) raffle tickets and take mobile phone numbers. See PB Poster 389

### **Friday 9 December:**

**MAKE BED.** The bed will take two full days to make. In the evening of this day I would like to draw the winning raffle ticket and deliver the bed to the winners home, where I will put it together for them if they want. I will use a taxi to deliver the bed.

### **Saturday 10 December:**

#### **WORKSHOP at Green Wave Centre**

#### **I will want to work with 25 students at the Green Wave Centre**

#### **Knitting and Head Painting**

I understand that it is on the Saturday and the Sunday the Green Wave Centre is fully open to its pupils. I would like to begin the day by explaining what I am doing in Kolkata and learning what the students do at the Green Wave Centre. And then start work on **KNIT WOOL** (PB Poster 551 & 552) I will be bringing the wool and knitting needles with me. I will also be able to teach those that cannot knit, how to knit.

Head Paintings with 25 students as Green Wave Centre. This I will try and explain to Tandra Chanda on the phone.

CLIMB TREE, I would like to climb a tree in or near the Green Wave Centre. I would like to climb the tree with as many of the students as feel comfortable. (As yet there is not a PB Poster for the climbing of trees). I don't want to be responsible for any of the students falling from the tree.

### **Sunday 11 December:**

BAKE CAKES – I would like to spend the day at the Green Wave Centre baking up to 8 cakes. As indicated above, I hope to bring with me the utensils that I will need to bake the cakes, but I will need to get locally a small electrical oven to bake them in and the ingredients. The ingredients that I will need to get are: Self raising flour, butter, eggs, castor sugar, icing sugar and coco powder.

Once all eight of the cakes have been baked and iced I will want to deliver them using a rickshaw. Once they have all been delivered The Kolkata Cake Circle will have been constructed.

(PB Poster 343).

### **Monday 12 December:**

MAN MAKING BED. If the bed for some reason was not completed on the Friday, it will be completed on the Monday morning. On the Monday afternoon we will take the bed to water. Using rope we will tie the empty oil drums to the underneath of the bed. I will then launch the bed on the water and using a long length of bamboo punt my way out into the water. I am using the word 'water' here so as to allow for the water to be just a water hole and not the mighty Hoogly / Hugli. It would be good if the water was close the Green Wave Centre. It would also be good to have the assistance of maybe four or the older students for this.

### **Tuesday 13 December:**

MAN SHINING SHOES. I will be working as a shoeshine boy for the day, or at least until I get 40 pairs of shoes shined. This again I would want to do close to where the Green Wave Centre is. I would need to have some one with me to translate. Each of the forty pairs of shoes I will be shining for free. But from each person who I shine a pair of shoes for, I will want to know what the greatest thought that they have had in their life. These forty thoughts, I will want to write down and publish at a later date. These thoughts will also be twined with forty thoughts that I am collecting while working as a shoeshine boy in the city of Hull in England next year (2017). I will be bringing with me copies of my book MAN SHINES SHOES. I have been shining shoes since I was five years old. It was always my favourite chore at home – to shine all the families shoes. When I grew up I wanted to be a shoeshine boy. It is only now that I have got into my 60s that I have become one.

(PB Poster 323 & 428).

### **Wednesday 14 December:**

CATCH FISH – Like shining shoes, fishing is something that I have done all my life. I would like to go fishing somewhere in Kolkata, catch a fish and cook it. There maybe one of the students who knows about fishing who can take me. I will be fishing in every city that I visit on The 25 Paintings – World Tour. As yet there is not a PB Poster for this work in English or Bangla. It will be done before I come.

*TRUE TO THE TRAIL* – This is the name of a tune that I wrote and recorded in 1986. I like to think of it as my theme tune. On each city that I visit on the world tour, I like to work with a different group of local musicians and for them to arrange and then record a version of *True To The Trail*. I hope at the end of the world tour, to release an album with all twelve versions of True To The Trail on it. I would also like to think the version recorded in Kolkata would be used on the soundtrack of the film that Paul Duane will be making. Again I would like to take your advice on musicians to work with. This is a link to the original 1986 recording on *True To The Trail* on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asQD7ScbcvM>

As yet there is not a PB Poster for this job. There will be one.

### **Thursday 15 December:**

Day Time: CLEAN WINDOW – As a teenager I worked as a window cleaner. I would like to clean forty windows in Kolkata. These could be the windows of the Green Wave Centre, your studio, your home, or the homes of a few of your students, as long as I get to clean forty windows. For me cleaning windows gives me access to peering into the soul of the world.

PB Poster 524

Evening: THE LONE SWEEPER – The Lone Sweeper is one on my alter egos. He is a retired street sweeper. With 'his' Homburg hat, which I will bring with me and the broom he bought on the first day, The Lone Sweeper will sweep along the road to the temple for Kali in Kalighat. This was a place that I first went to in 1998 and has left more than a lasting impression on me. What The Lone Sweeping is sweeping up only he knows, but it is not just the cigarette ends and empty crisp packets – not that I know if you have empty crisp packets littering your streets in Kolkata.

PB Poster 418

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalighat\\_Kali\\_Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalighat_Kali_Temple)

### **Friday 16 December:**

We will leave Friday free to tie together loose ends.

### **Saturday 17 December:**

#### **WORKSHOP at Green Wave Centre**

I will want to be working with the students back in The Green Wave Centre over the weekend. But before I describe what I would like to do with the students, I need to explain another aspect of The 25 Paintings. As well as them existing on canvas and on the walls of Port-au-Prince in Haiti, they exist as Head Paintings. Or they existed for one day as Head Paintings back in 2014 when I painted my head 25 times in the colour schemes of the background to each of The 25 Paintings in that year.

What I would ideally like to do with your students, if we can get 25 of them, is for them to work in pairs painting each other's heads in the colours of the paintings. This process would be filmed and photographed as it is happening. It will only take about 30 minutes to do if they are all doing it at the same time. The paint used will be acrylic, which I can bring with me. After they have all painted each other's heads, we had a very quick fashion show. For this they just wear the clothes they are wearing while they are painting each other's heads, but we have an imagined catwalk within The Green Wave Centre.

The recording of *True To The Trail* will be the soundtrack to the Head Painting fashion show.

This is an example of me painting my own head:

<http://www.penkilnburn.com/catalogue/#38>

And then interview Tandra Chanda for Forty Minutes for a second time.

I may also want to interview a couple of the students.

### **Sunday 18 December:**

This is the day we fly home

07:00 Taxi to the airport

08:00 Check in

10:40 Flight leaves

14:30 Flight arrives at Dubai

16:05 Emirates

16:05 Flight lands at Heathrow

We all go home.