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JEREMY DELLER'S LATEST PROJECT – A BAT HOUSE FOR LONDON

Artist Jeremy Deller (Turner Prize 2004) and the Bat House Partnership are pleased to announce a national competition to design a bat house at the WWT London Wetland Centre, to be launched later this year.

The competition will be open to artists, architects, the wider public and schoolchildren. It will be accompanied by a publication, an exhibition and a limited edition of artwork by Jeremy Deller. The Partnership intend to realise the winning proposal: a building of aesthetic and environmental excellence, built with sustainable materials, that offers homes to bats and an educational visitor attraction for people.

The Bat House Partnership hopes the competition will highlight the need for architects, builders, planners and conservationists to work together to produce wildlife-friendly building design – and provide real solutions. It aims to connect the worlds of art and ecology and encourage public engagement with ecology issues. The project will build on the Greater London Authority's biodiversity policies to raise awareness of the importance of bats in the UK's (and London's) environment, and to support the survival of the UK's seventeen bat species.

The project is being undertaken by the Bat House Partnership, comprising Jeremy Deller, the Arts Council England, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Greater London Authority, plusequals, the RSA and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Ends



Bat Conservation Trust



MAYOR OF LONDON

plusequals

RSA



Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

"In Texas some bat lovers have excavated caves and built towers on their land to encourage bat settlement. I'm interested in initiating a project suitable for bats in London. The partners mentioned below have joined me and later this year we'll launch an open competition to design a bat house to give a much-needed year-round habitat to bats in the Southwest London area. There is great pressure on bat numbers in London as buildings get redeveloped and home improvements leave little space for bats to live in. In this structure the bats are our client and we hope to be able to accommodate different species that have different housing needs, the raising of a family, hibernation etc." **Jeremy Deller**

EDITOR'S NOTES

Jeremy Deller

An internationally acclaimed artist, Deller won the Turner Prize in 2004 with 'Memory Bucket', a film about Texas which included 8 minutes of footage of 3 million bats leaving Frio Cave in Texas. After winning the Turner Prize, Deller announced his intention to build "a large bat house somewhere in the UK. This would be a piece of architecture, a sculpture and a living, working object." According to the Tate: "Collaboration and participation are central to Deller's work. He acts as curator, producer or director of a broad range of projects, including orchestrated events, films and publications, which draw attention to forms of culture on the fringes of the mainstream or reveal hidden histories." <http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/turnerprize/2004/deller.shtm>

Arts Council England

The national development agency for the arts in England. Between 2005 and 2008, they are investing £1.7 billion of public funds from government and National Lottery. This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England. Their vision is to promote the arts at the heart of national life, reflecting England's rich and diverse cultural identity. They believe that the arts have the power to transform lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country. <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk>

Bat Conservation Trust

BCT are the UK's foremost resource on bat conservation. They have been running the National Bat Monitoring Programme since 1996, advise the public and lobby in the UK and internationally on bat conservation legislation. There are 17 species of bat in the UK, all of which are protected by law because their numbers have decreased so dramatically. BCT research revealed that 67% of bat-related offences are committed within the building trade. <http://www.bats.org.uk>

Forthcoming Bat Dates

10th European Bat Weekend - August 26th – 28th 2006. <http://www.bats.org.uk>

Meeting of Parties of the Eurobats Agreement - September 4th - 6th 2006, Slovenia. Attended by 31 European governments and non governmental observers to further bat conservation in Europe. <http://www.eurobats.org>

BCT National Bat Conference - September 22nd - 24th 2006, Reading University. <http://www.bats.org.uk>

Greater London Authority

Information on the Mayor's Biodiversity policies: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/biodiversity>

plusequals

An agency launched a year ago to broker initiatives between artists and businesses across creative disciplines and industries. Directed by Greg Hilty in partnership with the University of the Arts, London. <http://www.plusequals.com>

RSA (The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture & Commerce)

In April 2005 the RSA in partnership with Arts Council England launched **Arts & Ecology**, a major new programme to profile, encourage and support artists in addressing ecological concerns: how the environment relates to poverty and party politics, conflict, global trade and land use; climate change, pollution and contamination, biodiversity and energy conservation. These are pressing matters for a growing number of artists. Activities include commissions supported by the Gulbenkian Foundation and Arts Council England, London; a series of events, the next taking place in China, encouraging dialogue with scientists, industrialists, government and environment groups; the development of a new web resource; and education pilots with Creative Partnerships. There will be a two day international conference on 11th and 12th December 06 with the London School of Economics, together with the launch of a publication based on dialogue between artists and other disciplines. <http://www.artsandecology.org>

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust London Wetland Centre

Opened in May 2000, the WWT London Wetland Centre is the first project of its kind in the world - over 40 hectares of created wetlands in the heart of a capital city. It offers hundreds of thousands of visitors the chance to see rare and beautiful wetland wildlife just a stone's throw from central London. The site has been chosen for its urban location and bat-rich habitat - all ten bat species found in London have been recorded there. <http://www.wwt.org.uk>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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<http://www.BatHouseProject.org>