# MARK
# WALLINGER

# PART ONE

# ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mark Wallinger was born in Chigwell, Essex, in 1959. He studied at Chelsea School of Art from 1978 to 1981, and at Goldsmiths College from 1983 to 1985. In 1999 he created the first sculpture to be sited on the empty Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, London. Wallinger won the Turner Prize in 2007 and was also nominated in 1995. In 2009 he was awarded the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project Commission to create a 52-metre high sculpture of a white horse in Kent, which has not yet been realised.

# ABOUT THE WORK

Throughout his career, Mark Wallinger has created a diverse range of work, including painting, sculpture, photography and video. His subject matter has been equally diverse, ranging from homelessness, racehorses, national identity and religion, to politics. In the 1990s Wallinger created a series of photo-realistic paintings of horses, and famously bought a racehorse, giving it the name *A Real Work of Art*. In 2007, he won the Turner Prize with an artwork called State Britain, a 43-metre long replica of an anti-war protest in Parliament Square in London, by peace campaigner Brian Haw, restaged inside an art gallery. Other works include *The Unconscious*, 2010, a series of photographs of people who had fallen asleep on public transport.

# ABOUT THE WORK

*SITE* is a major exhibition of Mark Wallinger's work at BALTIC which includes three new commissions made especially for the exhibition. Several of the works reflect the artist's interest in how we name, number or create systems to order things. *10000000000000000* is the title of an artwork which consists of 65,536 stones of a similar size. Each stone is placed on one square of a black and white checkerboard. The title is the binary form of 65,536, which in mathematics, is an example of a 'superperfect' number. The artwork seeks to create a visual from of this abstract, mathematical concept. *The Other Wall* is created from thousands of bricks, similar to those on the outside of BALTIC. They have been numbered sequentially by hand using chalk, then rearranged randomly across an entire wall of the gallery space. The random order is one of several million possible variations.

# ABOUT THE WORK

*Self Portrait (Times New Roman)* can be found on the outside of BALTIC, on the huge wall overlooking the River Tyne. A giant letter 'I' is written in black on a white background in the Times New Roman font, widely used in digital and printed text. The work explores identity, reducing it to one simple word used to express the self. The exhibition also includes *Construction Site*, 2011, a video showing three professional scaffolders erecting and dismantling a structure on a beach, against a backdrop of sky, sea and land. The artist has chosen to document an activity which is not often paid much attention. The footage shows the skills and trust between the scaffolders, and the possible dangers they face. During the video, the viewer can see the changing relationship between the scaffolding and the landscape behind it, and the contrast between the orderly work of the scaffolders and the unpredictable natural world around them, with changing patterns of light and colour and the movement of the tide, waves and birdlife.

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Look at the artwork called *10000000000000000*, made up of 65,536 stones. Walk around the work and look at it from different angles.

- Why do you think the stones have been placed on a black and white checkerboard?

- Where do you think the artist found the stones?

- Why do you think the artist has chosen to use stones which are similar in size?

Find the artwork called *The Other Wall*. Walk in front of the artwork and look at it closely.

- How many bricks do you think the artist has used? What is the highest number you can find written on a brick?

- Why do you think the artist has chosen to use a certain type or colour of brick? Would it matter if the bricks were a different colour?

- If you had six bricks, how many possible ways could you arrange them?

The artist has written his name, 'Mark', on one brick on the outside of the building.

- Have you seen it? If you can't find it, trying asking a member of BALTIC CREW where it is.

- When you visit an art gallery, do you enjoy seeing works on the outside of the building as well as in the exhibition spaces?

# IN MY OPINION

Mark Wallinger has said that bricks are 'as ubiquitous as people', meaning they are found everywhere around us.

- Where do you often find bricks? Think about the different places you have seen bricks and the different kinds of structures that are made from bricks.
- What other objects can you think of that are very common in our surroundings and seem to be everywhere? Make a list.
- Which item on your list would you choose to make an artwork about?

In *Self Portrait (Times New Roman)* the artist refers to a font commonly used when writing text on a computer.

- Which fonts do you use regularly? Why or how do you choose them?
- Why do you think some fonts have become more commonly used than others?
- Do you think the font we choose says something about us?

# HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER

Design your own font...

- Type your name in at least 10 different fonts and print them out.
- Compare the fonts. How are they different to each other? Which fonts do you like or dislike and why? What makes a good font?
- Have a go at designing your own font. Choose one letter out of your name to start.
- Try drawing the letter in lots of different ways on squared paper. Think about the shape and outline of the letter.
- Choose a design you like. On a new piece of paper, try designing all the letters in your name in the same style.

# HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER

Mark Wallinger has thought about different ways of representing himself, for example, by using the letter 'I' and by writing his own name on a brick on the outside of the building. Have a go at creating your own self portrait without using an image of yourself.

- How would you choose to represent yourself? Use a sketchbook to jot down your ideas.
- Think about objects or words which you might use to represent yourself.
- Choose one of your ideas to develop into a finished artwork using drawing, painting or photography.

# FURTHER RESEARCH

Bob & Roberta Smith
Hilary Lloyd
Jeremy Deller
Marcus Coates
Mark Quinn
Nathan Coley

# LITERACY KEY WORDS

state

professional

relationship

structure

abstract

binary

diverse

identity

protest

scaffolder

system

arrange

commission

font

order

random

sequential

ubiquitous

backdrop

concept

plinth

variation
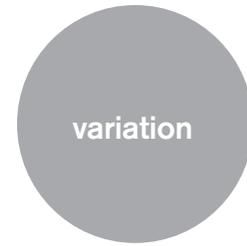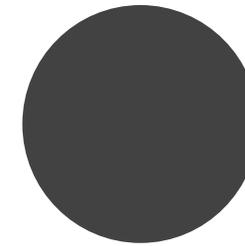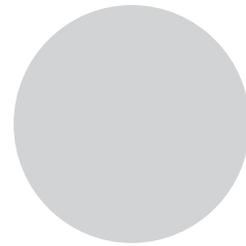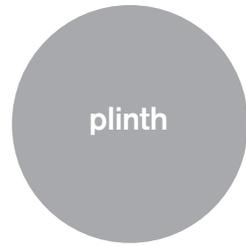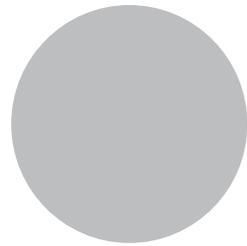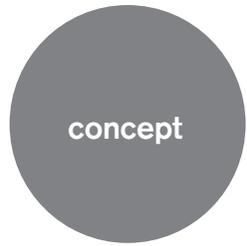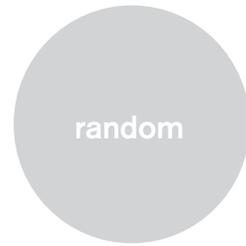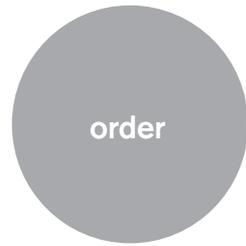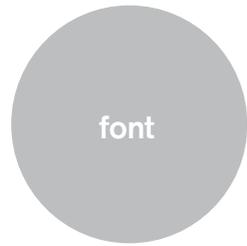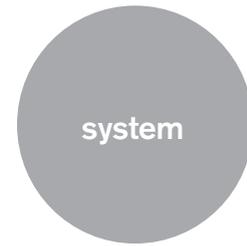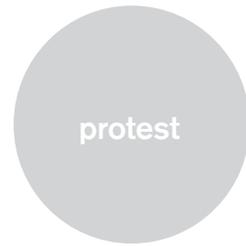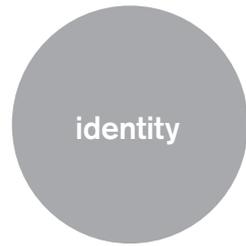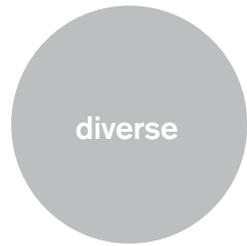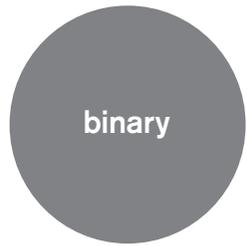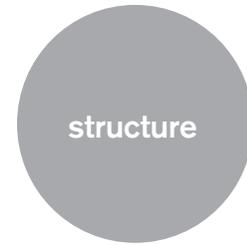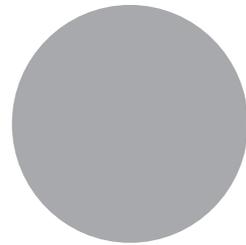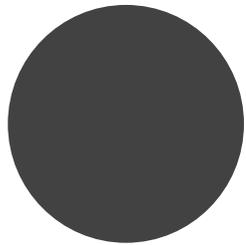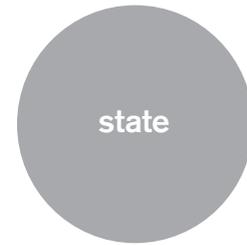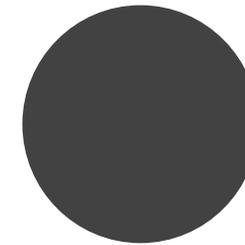
# PART TWO

# NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Contemporary art is incredibly diverse and wide ranging and can be used to support teaching and learning as part of an entire learning experience. It can be used to generate creative thinking in all subject areas and to support learning across curricular dimensions, as well as contribute to personal development and personalised learning.

# CROSS CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITES

- Art and Design
- English
- Mathematics

# USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BALTIC
www.balticmill.com

BALTIC Multimedia Database
http://archive.balticmill.com

BALTIC Secondary school Resources Bank:
www.balticmill.com/learning/schools-and-colleges/secondary-colleges/resources-secondary

# IMAGE CREDITS