

ART ACROSS THE CITY

Sinta Tantra: Greater Reality Of Elsewhere, 2012

229 – 230 High Street

Sinta Tantra's artwork layers abstract spreads of geometric colour with two giant golden palm trees, creating an ambiguous imagery that reflects her Balinese origin and Western upbringing. Tantra's artwork is part of the Art Across The High Street scheme, a partnership project to improve the appearance of Swansea City Centre funded by the Welsh Government, City & County of Swansea and Swansea BID.

Tantra's inspiration for the piece was gained through the Travel Sketches of American writer Truman Capote, the nostalgic elements of the past combined with daydreaming of a different future. "I'm fascinated in the way in which architecture and public art leads our bodies in certain directions across the city. Primarily, I wanted people passing by to engage with colour and imagery and then to ask more broader questions to themselves such as, how they want to live, build communities and interact with each other."

Tantra, a British artist of Balinese descent, was born in New York in 1979. She studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London 1999–2003 and at the Royal Academy Schools 2004–06. She is well regarded for her site-specific murals and installations – many in the public realm. These include works for Canterbury Christ Church University, Transport for London's Art on the Underground programme, Create KX London, the London Borough of Camden, the Southbank Centre and Liverpool Biennial.

Her most recent commission for Canary Wharf Group involved painting a 300 metre long bridge over Middle Dock which was launched for the Olympics 2012. Tantra's solo exhibitions include Play to Win Part 1 at The Parlour Studios and Project Space, London 2007; Real Phoney at Monika Bobinska Gallery, London, 2009; Arsenic Fantasy, Gaya Fusion Gallery, Bali 2009 and Politics of Seduction, Picker Gallery, University of Kingston, 2010. A recipient of many awards, including research grants from the British Council and Arts Council England, Tantra's work is in the collections of Britain's Government Art Collection and international private collections. She lives and works in London.