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Sinta Tantra: A Beautiful Sunset Mistaken for a Dawn. Canary Wharf, London 2012

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A Beautiful Sunset Mistaken for a Dawn is a 300-metre long abstract panoramic painting spanning both sides of the 150-metre long DLR Bridge at Canary Wharf, London. Sinta Tantra's inspiration for the painting emerged through observation of the natural (changing light tones and patterns), social (how people interact with the place), and architectural (shapes reflect the surrounding buildings) elements of the Canary Wharf environment. Tantra recorded a 24 hour time lapse sequence that showed the sunset and sunrise over the bridge. The palette echoes this study: blues and greys that work well during the daytime and purples and pinks that work well at night-time. Other inspiration for the colour scheme included research on 'English Dandyism' – tailoring and suits of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries – and tropical sunsets in Bali.

A lighting scheme to be installed, designed by Lighting Design International, beneath the bridge to create a dynamic artwork at night with changing LED light projectors mounted to the underside of the bridge. The projectors will wash soft light from each end of the bridge, subtly blending complementary colours and slowly changing from early to late evening and different times of year.

The work has been commissioned by Canary Wharf Group and has been implemented under the management of Canary Wharf Contractors by Serco, which operates the DLR, and their painting contractors Alfred Bagnall & Sons (North West) Ltd, who worked closely with the artist to realise her scheme. Over 65 painters from Alfred Bagnall & Sons worked on the project, applying over 5,000 litres of paint in seven different colours. The equivalent of over 3km of specialist masking tape was used to achieve the crisp, sharp edges on the straight lines and curves.





Sinta Tantra is a British artist of Balinese heritage. She was born in New York, USA and spent her childhood in Indonesia, America and Britain. She graduated in London from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2003 and completed her postgraduate degree at Royal Academy of Arts in 2006. In the same year, she was awarded the Deutsche Bank Award in Fine Art. She lives and works in London. She is working on a commission for the Liverpool Biennial (2012).

The new commission joins Canary Wharf Group's award-winning collection of over 60 free-to-view works of art and design, which helped the Group win the Christie's Award for the Best Corporate Art Collections and Programmes in the International Art and Work Awards in 2010. The new art work will be included on the Canary Wharf's Public Art Map, available for download at www.canarywharf.com

