

Brompton Borders 16 – 25 May

Brompton Borders celebrates a contemporary vision of urban nature and hidden green spaces in the Brompton Design District, an area of London renowned for its historic parks, gardens and squares.

The initiative will begin on May 16 with the design district's specialist shops (fashion, children's, design and book shops) creating mini-gardens in windows and outside spaces. Restaurants (Bibendum, Le Pain Quotidien, Admiral Codrington and Daphne's) will provide special menus for the duration of Brompton Borders, ending on May 23 bank holiday weekend with a shopping event in Brompton Quarter and Brompton Cross combined with a secret garden festival by artists' collective, House of Fairy Tales, in a disused garage.

Analogies between art and gardening were highlighted in the early 20th Century by English landscape artist Gertrude Jekyll, who was influenced by the Arts and Craft movement. Jekyll was renowned for her appreciation of both natural and formal styles, emphasizing the importance of structure, proportion, colour, scent and texture in gardens of almost any scale.

The children's novel *The Secret Garden*, written by Frances Hodgson Burnett and published in 1911, uses the metaphor of a garden as a way of describing safe place within one's surroundings. Examining these themes of rebirth, love, innocence and the power of nature, this classic story parallels Jekyll's romanticism with gardening and its milieu. Innovative cultural company Arts Co asked contemporary artists to respond to these notions of the garden by employing the same approaches practiced by Jekyll; exploring poetry in colour and form.

Hidden spaces in the Brompton Design District will be taken over by artists El and Abe and House of Fairy Tales while the Brompton Borders Hub and Literary Garden will reveal Lyndall Phelps's indoor interpretation of Jekyll's concepts, creating an interactive environment. The artistic programme, developed by cultural consultancy, Arts Co, aims to bring new life to outdoor spaces and inspire education relating to the possibilities of creativity and play in the fine art of horticulture in Brompton for residents and visitors.

Brompton Borders will involve broad spectrum of partners: artists, gardeners, restaurants and shops, developing a holistic profile for the area. By encouraging partners to think about outdoor spaces, the Brompton Design District will encourage experimentation within the comparatively conventional arena of garden design through cross fertilisation with arts and design.

The Brompton Design District will become an animated series of secret spaces and herbaceous borders in the area that originally inspired Jekyll many years ago. The Brompton Design District, initiated by South Kensington Estates and local partners, stretches from the Serpentine Gallery to the Saatchi Gallery and encompasses South Kensington, Brompton Cross and Brompton Quarter.

Key Dates

Brompton Borders: **16 – 24 May**

Press and visitors day: Tuesday **19th May**

Shopping Event: Saturday **23 May**

House of Fairytales Festival: Saturday **23 May** and procession of mobile garden to Tate Modern on the **24 May**

Brompton Borders cultural programme by Arts Co and South Kensington Estaets

Brompton's Secret Garden

The Car Park, 2 North Terrace, SW3 2BB

16 – 25 May, open 12 am – 5 pm

Artists: El & Abe

Brompton Secret Garden Festival supported by Alara Wholefoods

The Car Park, 2 North Terrace, SW3 2BB

Saturday 23, open 11 am – 5 pm and Sunday 24 May 11 am – 1 pm

Artists: House of Fairy Tales

'There is always a pretty little play in pretending.' **Jekyll.**

For Jekyll, the garden was paradise for a small girl; her vivid childhood memories never faded and were the foundation of her later achievements. The old car park space will be transformed into a **Secret Garden**, full of magical herbaceous possibilities. On 23 May, the **Secret Garden Festival** by House of Fairytales will celebrate creativity and play in the fine art of horticulture (including plant potting, face painting and art projects). On 24 May, a huge wheeled garden procession will set off from Brompton Design District, SW3 and arrive at the Tate Modern, SE1.

Brompton Borders Literary Garden

29 Thurloe Place, SW7 2HQ

16 – 25 May, open 12 am – 5 pm

Artists: Tom Gallant, Lyndall Phelps and Liz Neal

'A garden is a grand teacher.' **Jekyll.**

The relationship between landscape and well-being is a recurring theme for Jekyll and in *The Secret Garden*. Using the garden motif, Burnett explores the healing power inherent in living things and the natural environment. Jekyll's approach to gardening was passionate and revolutionary – her writings, teachings, theories and intellectual study of plants sought to unlock the poetry and romance of the garden. The Literary Garden will host a library of gardening, horticulture and history books, with maps of Jekyll's gardens in Brompton and throughout the UK. A talk on Jekyll's work will take place on 19 May at 7.30 (limited places but please check availability).

Garden Skips: Secret Borders

Around Brompton Design District

16 – 25 May

Artists: Various

Jekyll's primary teaching around the use of colour was the importance of harmony; but harmony achieved through a careful balance of contrasts. Her name is often associated with the development of herbaceous borders, arranged and grouped in colours. *The Secret Garden* is concerned with the idea of secrets. The secret of the existence of the garden itself is the most significant - suggesting that the content of the garden is not the most important, but the way that one thinks about it. Planted skips by students from the Royal College of Art act as secret borders throughout Brompton, giving a different view on the garden within our immediate environment.

Brompton Borders shopping event partners

The Admiral Codrington, B&B Italia, Bibendum, Bonpoint, The Conran Shop, Coco De Mer, Daphne's, Few and Far, Issey Miyake, Le Pain Quotidien, LK Bennett, Ralph Lauren, Robert Frew, Skandium, SNOG.

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