

Mapping the City

Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA. www.somerset-house.org.uk.
 ☉ Charing Cross or Covent Garden.
 Thu Jan 22 ▶ Feb 15. Mon, Thu-Sun 10am-6pm. Free.



You don't always need to walk the streets of a city to get a feel for it, sometimes a map can be just as evocative. This exhibition of cartographic representations shows how more than 50 graffiti and street artists view the towns they use as their canvas. Don't expect updated versions of Google Maps: this collection of newly commissioned and existing works contains some highly abstract interpretations of the traditional town map, from videos to graffiti trails.

With a pot of paint strapped to the back of his bike, graffiti artist Momo cycled 12.8km across Manhattan in 2006, trailing an orange-and-pink stream of paint that spelled out his tag in one unbroken line. He has reproduced the now faded map in finer detail for this show.

Other big urban centres that get the street-art treatment include Los Angeles, Buenos Aires and Berlin – the German capital's Kreuzberg district singled out by Shepard Fairey (see right).

Due to the nature of their professions, the artists see and use urban landscapes in unusual ways, and have presented their subjective surveys through digital technology,



illustration, sculpture, painting and even performance. You won't be able to miss the piece by the most well-known female street artist, Swoon, whose coffee-stained block print of her version of Bangkok stands nine feet tall (see left).

A truly contemporary way to peek through the keyholes of other people's cities. *Ashleigh Arnott*

THE BOTTOM LINE Street artists get to make their mark on the urban landscape.

Things to Do



Drum roll please...
 Discover the dramatic and exciting world of percussion in a day of concerts, free pop-up performances and workshops at the Barbican. The day ends with a crescendo of sound, with Wolfgang Rihm's monumental piece for large orchestra and multiple percussionists, *Tutuguri*.

bbc.co.uk/symphonyorchestra

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[TotalImmersion]
Percussion!
 Saturday 31 January

BANGKOK, BANGKOK, BERLIN TOWER, SHEPARD FAIREY

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