

Art and Craft is the fifth of Royal Mail's 12 Millennium sets for 2000, inspired by Millennium projects throughout the UK. The pottery glaze depicted on the 2nd class represents Ceramica, a museum celebrating the Staffordshire Potteries

- The 1st class value shows a detail of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art, soon to open at Bankside in London •

- The 45p value depicts the Cycle Network artworks. More than 1000 artworks make this one of the biggest outdoor sculpture projects in Europe •
- The photographic collage on the 65p value, *The Lowry*, represents Salford's new arts centre while reminding us of the artist's distinctive work •



John Stone

Ceramica With a series of displays and galleries, this museum in Stoke-on-Trent brings the aesthetic and industrial heritage of Staffordshire potteries to life. Children will learn about the craft's history, when kilns burned day and night to fulfil orders from around the world, and budding artists can design their own pieces.

The Art and Craft issue will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 2 May.





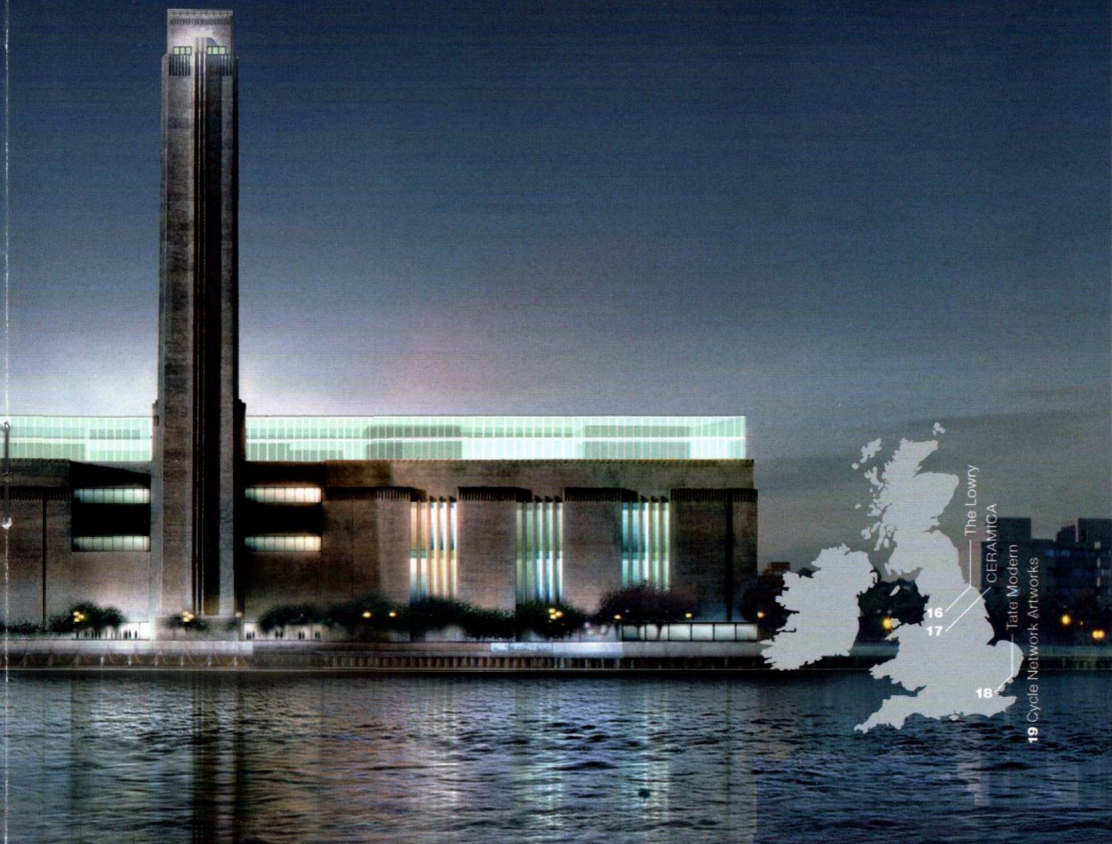
Tate Modern The magnificent old Bankside Power Station in London, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, will be the new home for The Tate Gallery's collection of 20th century art. The Tate's site at Millbank, built with funds from Sir Henry Tate, was opened in 1897 and extended from 1910 to 1987.

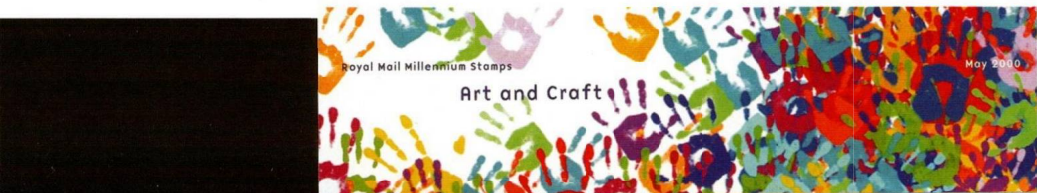


Cycle Network Artworks Grants of £43.5 million support the National Cycle Network, a major Millennium project which will involve over 3000 miles of construction spanning the country, from the north of Scotland to the South East and South West, throughout Wales and in Northern Ireland.



The Lowry This new arts complex in Salford includes two theatres, as well as the Lowry Gallery housing 55 oil paintings and 300 drawings by Salford's greatest son. Aiming to attract 770,000 visitors a year, the Lowry Centre project has cost some £98 million, supported with lottery grants of £64 million.





A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.95) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé Stamps

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class; two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

2nd 1A greenish yellow ● 1B magenta ● 1C new blue ● 1D black ● 1E silver ● 1G grey-brown

1st & 45p 1A greenish yellow ● 1B magenta ● 1C new blue ● 1D black ● 1E silver

65p 1A greenish yellow ● 1B magenta ● 1C new blue ● 1D black ● 1E dull silver ● 1F silver

Phosphor number 1G 65p, 1F others.



Ceramica is at Burslem Old Town Hall, in Stoke-on-Trent. Plans at this museum include the Infinity Kiln, where visitors can step into a mirrored box stacked with pots and see them fired. The story of the Wedgwood company, perhaps the best-known of all British pottery firms, was told in two prestige stamp books issued in 1972 and 1980.

The Tate Modern will open this year. The Tate Gallery at Millbank houses the national collection of British paintings and 20th century paintings and sculptures. At least two earlier stamps feature paintings in the Tate: John Piper's *Ruins of St Mary-le-Port* (1968 Paintings) and Sir Stanley Spencer's *St Francis and the Birds* (1993 Contemporary Art).

Cycling has featured on few British stamps. In 1978 four stamps marked the centenaries of the Cyclists Touring Club and British Cycling Federation, and the 26p stamp in the 1999 Travellers' Tale set featured Sara Fanelli's representation of women liberated by cycling.

Paintings by L S Lowry have featured on two earlier stamps: *Children Coming Out of School* (1967 British Paintings 186d), and *Children Playing* (1995 Greetings in Art). Lowry's *Going to the Match* fetched £1.9 million at a Sotheby's auction in November 1999 – a record price for this artist's work. The painting – an oil on canvas, painted in 1953 – is said to be based loosely on Lowry's memories of Bolton Wanderers' former ground at Burden Park. The work was purchased by the Professional Footballers' Association.



Future Millennium issues

Stone and Soil	04.07.00
Tree and Leaf	01.08.00
Mind and Matter	05.09.00
Body and Bone	03.10.00
Spirit and Faith	07.11.00
Sound and Vision	05.12.00

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 2 May, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Salford must reach the Bureau by 2 May. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA (Salford postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0009' (Bureau), or 'FD0010' (Salford). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Salford postmark. A non-pictorial Salford postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD0010 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 2 May will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. Covers may bear just the 2nd class Art and Craft stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 2 May.



MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated Art and Craft pack (price £1.95) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. The Art and Craft poem is by Salford-born John Cooper Clarke who achieved notoriety in the late 1970s in the Punk Rock phenomenon when he was dubbed the 'Punk Poet'. His deadpan delivery and wry wit is in huge demand on the poetry circuit as well as in schools.

Next Millennium issues The sixth set in the Millennium 2000 series will be issued on 6 June. Entitled People and Place, this features Millennium Greens; Gateshead Millennium Bridge; Mile End Park, London; and 'On the Line' (Meridian line through Greenwich). Further details will follow next month ●



Tate Modern p240-241 & 227, Hayes Davidson