

Diana Puntar Chimera

(H±R-A)

FREE Activity



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An Alternative Kingston Heritage Trail

24 May ————— 1 Nov 2025

History is a mixture of fact and myth that is constantly in flux.

Chimera (H±R-A) Historical Re-Anachronism is an alternative heritage and sculpture trail around Kingston town centre by artist Diana Puntar. Her new sculptures appear within existing heritage sites to question the role of monuments in shaping collective memory and cultural identity. Chimera explores the transformation of historical objects, such as the Kingston Coronation Stone, into symbols of English heritage.

The different sculptures can be discovered at Kingston University's Town House Library, All Saints Church, Frederick W Paine Funeral Museum and Kingston Museum. Other sites along the trail include the original Kingston bridge ruins at FuseBox, the Coronation Stone at Kingston Guildhall and Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University.

See overleaf for individual venue opening hours.



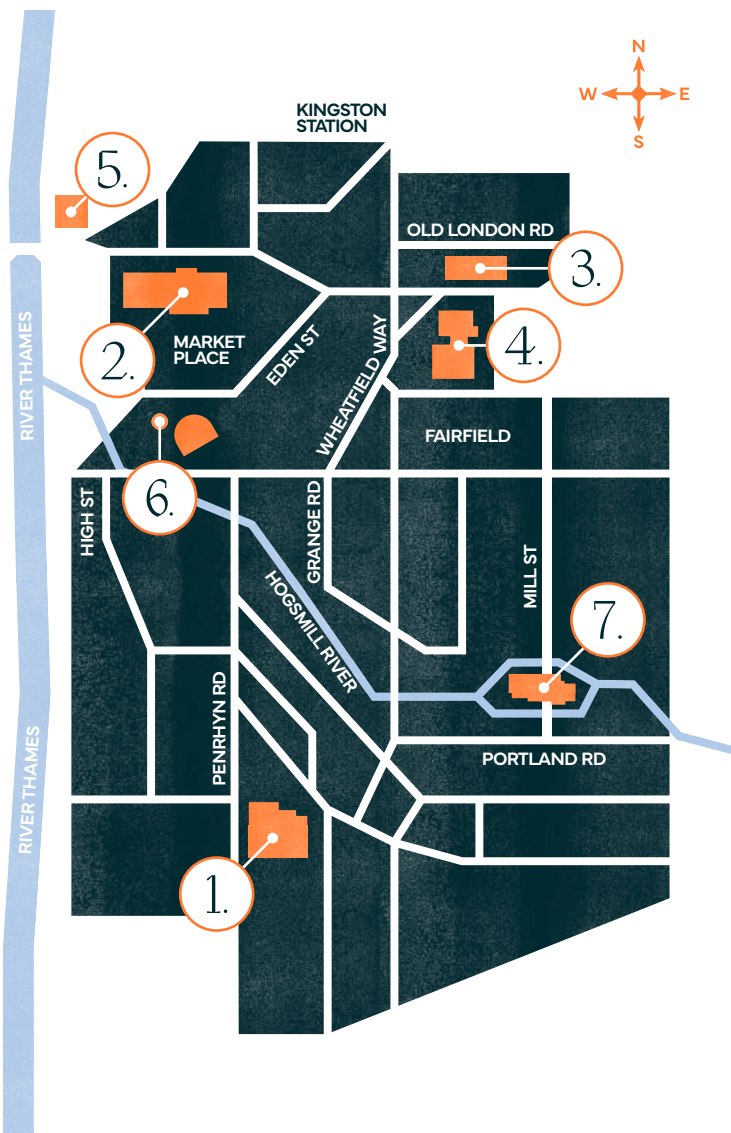
Kingston upon Thames

Chimera (H±R-A) Historical Re-Anachronism is an alternative heritage and sculpture trail around Kingston town centre by artist Diana Puntar.

Co-commissioned by Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University and the Royal Borough of Kingston for Kingston 2025, a special programme of events to mark the 1100th anniversary of the crowning of King Athelstan, the first king of a united England, right here in Kingston.



Graphic Design by Alex Stillwell (BA Graphic Design Graduate Kingston School of Art)



Chimera Sculpture Sites:

- 1. Town House Library Kingston University**
Penrhyn Road, KT1 2EE
Mon–Fri 8.30am–9pm / Sat–Sun 10am–5pm

The trail begins with a large sculpture in the entrance of the Town House Library. A mammoth-like creature's body slowly sinks into the landscape, whilst its tusk simultaneously reemerges. The scene captures the possible origin stories of South West London's earliest inhabitants. Over time, Puntar will add more etchings to the sculpture, based on drawings made with local communities whose stories are often left out of established historical narratives. Find out how to contribute your own drawing via the QR code below.

- 2. All Saints Church**
14-16 Market Place, KT1 1JP
Mon–Sun 10am–4pm

Near the West entrance of All Saints Church, a glass case displays an imitation sarsen stone embedded with barnacles and other objects which reappear throughout the trail. Alongside a replica of King Athelstan's crown and a carved Saxon Cross, the sculpture invites reflection on the past.

As you explore the church, look for a medieval memento mori (Latin for "remember you must die") graffiti in the northeast corner, likely by the original stonemasons, while outside, near the south entrance, you'll also see some modern graffiti, where different communities have claimed space in their own way.

- 3. Frederick W Paine Funeral Directors & Museum**
(window display)
24 Old London Road, KT2 6QG
Please Note: Museum open by appointment only. Puntar's work can be viewed from outside.

Who and how do we remember? In the window of Frederick W Paine, Diana Puntar's 'funerary talisman' sculptures are designed to stack atop one another, echoing different histories of Kingston. They are displayed alongside historical artifacts and documents of deaths from the museum's archives.

- 4. Kingston Museum**
Wheatfield Way, KT1 2PS
Thurs–Sat 10am–5pm

Inside one of the collection cases on the ground floor of Kingston Museum, you'll find some of Puntar's sculptures set in the context of Neolithic objects, appearing like a cross between stone tools and museum souvenirs. These objects raise the questions: Which objects are chosen to tell the story of Kingston's history? Are they real, replicas, or something else entirely? What stories do they tell, and who are those stories about? How does adding these contemporary objects help change our understanding of the collection?



Other Heritage Sites:

- 5. Original Kingston Bridge ruins at FuseBox**
2 Buckland's Wharf, Thames Side, KT1 1TF
Wed–Sat 11am–6pm

FuseBox is a space for Creative Youth, where young people, emerging artists, academic partners, and community organisations can come together. Situated underneath John Lewis in Kingston, the space itself houses the 12th century Saxon remains of the original foundations of Kingston Bridge as well as the 14th century medieval undercroft.

- 6. The Coronation Stone at Kingston Guildhall**
8–10 High Street, KT1 1EY

This ancient sarsen stone standing in front of the Guildhall is fabled to have been used for the coronation of seven Anglo-Saxon kings. It is also known to have been used on Kingston Market Square as a horse mounting stone. Historic evidence suggests that at least two kings, Athelstan (925) and Aethelred the Unready (979) were crowned in Kingston; and some suggest that Eadred (946) could also have been. However the association between their coronations and this specific stone is more of a local legend, which probably originates from the Victorians.

- 7. Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston School of Art, Kingston University**
Grange Road, KT1 2QJ
Tues–Sat 11am–5pm (during exhibitions)

Stanley Picker Gallery sits on an island along the Hogsmill River, the site of an old mill that once processed coconut fibre. The gallery works with contemporary artists and designers, the university and the local community, to encourage creativity and innovation. Visit for free exhibitions and activities, including new work by Stanley Picker Fellows Ilona Sagar and Davinia-Ann Robinson, and the temporary Sauna and Shrine to the 'Spirit of the Hogsmill' created by students with Takeshi Hayatsu, 121 Collective and community partners. Collect your free 'Chimera' badge when you visit!

Explore more heritage and sculpture nearby at Dorich House Museum on Kingston Vale, SW15 3RN.



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