ART ON THE UNDERGROUND

Rudy Loewe
'The Congregation'

MAYOR OF LONDON

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Scenes from 'The Congregation' as described by the artist

1 A noise demonstration which takes place outside HM Prison Brixton every New Year's Eve in solidarity with prisoners.

2 A faith healer offers healing to a woman outside Brixton Station.

3 A protest against the Special Patrol Group and policing in the late 1970s.

4 The 121 Centre was an anarchist social centre on Railton Road, and one of the UK's longest-running squats.

5 Squatters dumpster-diving for food in the market.

6 People look out of their homes, above the 'Frontline Off Licence' during the 1981 Brixton Uprising.

7 Aunties shop at the market on Electric Avenue.

8 'Healthy Eaters' is a popular Jamaican restaurant that regularly gathers large queues.

9 Southwyck House is a large brutalist-style Housing Association development known informally as 'Barrier Block'.

10 People chat outside 'The Powerful Hand', a spiritual shop.

11 Brixton Housing Co-op on Railton Road.

12 Pearl Alcock ran an underground bar out of her basement flat on Railton Road. It functioned as a social space for Black gay men in the 1990s. The artwork outside is inspired by Pearl's own.

13 'DON'T BOW' is inspired by graffiti in Jamaica.

14 Since the mid-1980s, SisterMatic has been a Black lesbian-run sound system known for offering much-needed lesbian nightlife.

15 Uncles get into it in Windrush Square.

16 'Holding the Flame' by Thor McIntyre is the virtual statue of activist Marcia Rigg, the sister of Sean Rigg, who died in police custody at Brixton police station in 2008. The physical statue includes a QR code to access the memorial to Sean Rigg.

17 People run through the street during the 1981 Brixton Uprising, while a Rastafarian smokes by a van.

18 A gospel singer on the street alongside a disapproving auntie.

19 TfL colleague and Train Operator CJ Rivers is depicted with their child. Teenage girls walk along the street.

20 A man, woman and child from the Windrush Generation arrive in Brixton in the late 1940s.

Rudy Loewe
'The Congregation'
From November 2025

'The Congregation' is a new artwork for Brixton Underground station by artist Rudy Loewe.

Loewe is a multidisciplinary artist working across painting, drawing, and sculpture. With this new artwork, they weave stories from archival research and interviews into their painting, highlighting the rich, sensorial experience of Brixton.

Loewe creates an entry point into histories, people and places, such as Brixton, a site which has been a focal point for Black communities over the last 75 years. Their paintings are inspired by their experiences of making comics and illustrations, combining text and image with the use of vivid colour.

Loewe's mural for Brixton Underground station features twenty scenes celebrating figures and moments in the history of the local area. 'The Congregation' honours Brixton's history as a place of resistance and community gathering, particularly for London's Black communities.

Loewe is the ninth artist in the series of artworks at Brixton Tube station, which, since 2018, has responded to the diverse narratives of the local murals painted in the 1980s, the rapid development of the area and the wider social and political history of mural-making.

Artist's Approach

For my Art on the Underground commission, I wanted to capture the aliveness of Brixton. As soon as you step out of your home or out of the Tube station, there's such a rich sensorial experience and it was this that I wanted to transmute into painting. There are preachers, loud music, people singing; you can hardly walk down the street without having an unexpected conversation with someone. It makes it a very special place in London. To me, there is something about all of this that is so West Indian and that I wanted to foreground.

Brixton is a place that has held many histories that not everyone may be aware of. Through this work I signal some of those moments, places and people in time.

Brixton has a long history of queer nightlife. But if you have not experienced it, you might not know that it is there. Where is Brixton's Black, queer nightlife in the archives? The inclusion of SisterMatic, a Black, lesbian sound system, is a way of archiving this history into the artwork.

Brixton has a longstanding history of being a site of resistance – such as the 1981 and 1985 Brixton Uprisings and the New Year's Eve solidarity demonstrations outside of Brixton Prison every year.

The work honours those who have died in police custody in Brixton, such as Sean Rigg, who has a memorial outside Brixton police station. Marcia Rigg is included in the painting, both as a way to honour her brother and to highlight the continued struggle against police brutality and deaths in institutions.

I wanted to include CJ Rivers, who is a Trinidadian Train Operator currently working for London Underground. This marks the legacy of the Windrush generation, who came from 1948 onwards from the Caribbean and often took on jobs working for the Underground.

For the commission, I conducted research at several archives, including the London Archives and Lambeth Archives. The archives held many stories I wanted to tell, of preachers, healers, squatters and mothers.

In one photograph, an auntie is receiving healing from a faith healer outside of Brixton station. She's holding a leaflet about SUFFERATION in her hand. There was something that struck me about how the healer looked like a schoolboy in a suit that was too big for him, giving this auntie healing.

At the London Archives, I looked at many images of the 1981 Brixton Uprising. These were grainy photographs, where the people were no bigger than 1 cm. I was looking at these tiny people, the details of their clothes and poses, and drawing them much larger and reimagining them as characters.

Brixton has been to me a place full of spiritual reverie. Whether it's the constant flow of preachers that come to the high street (which felt like it could be an entire painting of its own), or the visits to 'The Powerful Hand' for 7-day candles, gospel singers or the countless examples in Lambeth Archives. I wanted to make sure this was present in the work.

The artwork has 'DON'T BOW', graffiti from Jamaica, as a final word to not bend to state systems. Brixton is a place of faith and resistance.

Rudy Loewe

Oral Histories

Scan the QR code to listen to oral histories from sitters featured in the artwork, **SisterMatic**, **Marcia Rigg** and **CJ Rivers**.

Eddie Lockhart and **Yvonne Taylor** are founding members of **SisterMatic**, a sound system which started in the 1980s providing a safe space for Black Lesbian women. This then grew into intergenerational queer nightlife in Brixton and other areas of London.

Marica Rigg is the sister of Sean Rigg who died in police custody in Brixton in 2008. She is a political activist on the issues of mental health and policing in the UK.

CJ Rivers is a parent and TfL Train Operator who lives and works in London, and grew up in Trinidad and Tobago.

With thanks to CJ Rivers, Marcia Rigg, SisterMatic, Dex Grodner, Lei Baker, Lambeth Archives and The London Archives.

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