

TMS Maritime is a leading UK specialist in marine civil engineering, ancillary floating plant and diving services

Client: Landsec

Value: £500,000

Project: The Big Painting, London

Description: The Big Painting is a creative solution to the practical problem of wind blowing through the buildings at Cardinal Place in Victoria, London. The sculpture was designed by Patrick Heron and his son-in-law, Julian Feary (architect), brought it to life on a grand scale. The sculpture consists of numerous brightly coloured floating shapes connected with linear patterns. Neon tubes light up the sculpture at night with a pathway of lights directing people through the sculpture on foot. The Big Painting was commissioned in 1998, although the artist sadly passed away a year after the sculpture was unveiled. TMS were appointed by Landsec to remove The Big Painting



from outside Portland House in Victoria in London, in anticipation of refurbishment works being undertaken to adjacent properties. The structure is approximately 20m tall, 12m wide and 4m deep. Once removed it was requested that the structure was put into storage for a period of up to 2 years while permissions were granted for it to be refurbished and then re-installed in a new location. TMS appointed two specialist sub-contractors to assist with the removal of the work and a sub-contractor to Landsec undertook the traffic management works at this busy location. The scope of the project included:

- Rope access removal of all GRP elements of the structure.
- Removal of all aluminium and stainless steel rigging elements of the structure.
- Transportation of all elements to the relevant storage locations.
- Off site storage of the structure for up to 2 years while permissions are granted for the next phase of works to be completed.
- Appointing specialist sub-contractors to complete the repair and refurbishment works when instructed.

The future scope of the project includes:

- Refurbishment of all GRP elements.
- Fabrication of all new primary structure stainless steel rods due to designing lifespan being exceeded.
- Re-welding of the aluminium truss to bring up to present standards.
- Cleaning and refurbishment of all aluminium spreaders and masts.
- Transportation of all elements to the new installation location.
- Re-installation of the structure in the new location using specialist rope access contractor and specialist rigging contractor.
- Construction of a new reinforced concrete foundation.

TMS have, so far, completed the removal of The Big Painting and are awaiting instruction for the refurbishment works to begin. These works are likely to take a year to complete due to the demand of the specialist contractors throughout certain seasons by private clients.

Patrick Heron's legacy has lived on through The Big Painting and will continue to do so when it is re-installed in its new location.

