

Large Print
Exhibition Guide
Yoko Ono:
MEND PIECE for
London

25 August 2021 – 2 January
2022



Galleries 5&6

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MEND PIECE for London

**Mend carefully.
Think of mending the world
at the same time.**

y.o.

You are invited to participate in 'MEND PIECE for London', an interactive installation by artist, musician and activist Yoko Ono (b. 1933, Tokyo, Japan).

Take a seat at one of the two tables in this gallery, on which you will find broken fragments of ceramic cups and saucers and some simple materials for repair – scissors, glue, twine and tape. When you have finished 'mending', you can display the results of your efforts along the shelves on the walls.

Ono first presented this work as 'Mending Piece 'I at her 1966 solo exhibition at Indica Gallery, London, a renowned centre for countercultural art. Titled 'Yoko at Indica: Unfinished Paintings and Objects', almost every work in the exhibition was designed to be completed through the actions of visitors. Such instruction-based works established Ono as an important figure in the development of both Fluxus and Conceptual art. Her extensive career has since spanned performance, writing, visual art, experimental music and film. A commitment to participation and collaboration also informs her ongoing and tireless campaigns for peace and non-violence.

'MEND PIECE for London' draws on the Japanese tradition of kintsugi, the art of repairing broken pottery using lacquer mixed with precious metals such as gold and silver. The process nurtures breakage as an important part of an object's history, rather than seeking to disguise it. In this artwork, the physical act of repair becomes a timely metaphor for a different kind of mending which takes place in the mind and through community.

A selection of photographs, books and press cuttings relating to the 1966 Indica Gallery exhibition is on display on the ground floor, adjacent to Gallery 2.

Please sanitise your hands before and after interacting with this artwork and speak to a member of Whitechapel Gallery staff if you require assistance.

Supported by Bagri Foundation

Ceramics kindly provided by Burgess & Leigh Ltd

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