

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

This is one of a series of pieces which is drawing the viewers attention to the iconic symbols In London. This is a limited edition piece of 45.

The title, "changing of the guard", is a play on words as by simply changing the colours of uniform and the hut gives a new perspective of the guard. The hut and guardsman is simplified and flattened by using a strong plain colour combination in order to simplify the image and to create a fun and fabricated artwork.

The piece shows a repeat guardsman in 15 varying colour schemes. The original guard which I believe is a Grenadier is centrally placed in the artwork.

As with other pieces in this range, the overall artistic aim is to create a composition that enhances and invigorates the senses through colour.

This is a limited edition of 45 and each is hand constructed.

Background

Changing the Guard or Guard Mounting is the process involving a new guard exchanging duty with the old guard.

The Guard which mounts at Buckingham Palace is called The Queen's Guard and is divided into two Detachments: the Buckingham Palace Detachment (which is responsible for guarding Buckingham Palace), and the St. James's Palace Detachment, (which guards St. James's Palace). These guard duties are normally provided by a battalion of the Household Division and occasionally by other infantry battalions or other units.

When Guardsmen are on duty, the soldiers are drawn from one of the five regiments of Foot Guards in the British Army: the Scots Guards, the Irish Guards, the Welsh Guards, the Grenadier Guards and the Coldstream Guards.

The five Regiments may be recognised as follows:

Regiment	Grouping of buttons on scarlet tunic	Collar badge	Plume on bearskin cap
Grenadier Guards	Singly	Grenade	White, worn on left side
Coldstream Guards	Twos	Garter Star	Red, worn on right side
Scots Guards	Threes	Thistle	No plume
Irish Guards	Fours	Shamrock	Blue, worn on right side
Welsh Guards	Fives	Leek	Green and white, worn on left side

The Queen's Guard is commanded by a Captain (who usually holds the rank of Major), and each Detachment is commanded by a Lieutenant. The Colour of the Battalion providing the Guard is carried by a Second Lieutenant (who is known as the Ensign).

The handover is accompanied by a Guards band. The music played ranges from traditional military marches to songs from films and musicals and even familiar pop songs.

When The Queen is in residence, there are four sentries at the front of the building. When she is away there are two.

The Queen's Guard usually consists of Foot Guards in their full-dress uniform of red tunics and bearskins. If they have operational commitments, other infantry units take part instead.

Units from Commonwealth realms occasionally take turn in Guard Mounting. In May 1998, Canadian soldiers from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry mounted guard at Buckingham Palace for the first time since the Coronation in 1953.

Household Troops have guarded the Sovereign and the Royal Palaces since 1660. Until 1689, the Sovereign lived mainly at the Palace of Whitehall and was guarded there by Household Cavalry.

In 1689, the court moved to St James's Palace, which was guarded by the Foot Guards. When Queen Victoria moved into Buckingham Palace in 1837, the Queen's Guard remained at St James's Palace, with a detachment guarding Buckingham Palace, as it still does today.

Buckingham Palace is not the only place to see Guard Mounting. At Windsor Castle, the ceremony takes place at 11.00 am. For most of the year Guard Mounting takes place on alternate dates, but it is held daily (except Sundays) from April to July.

At Horse Guards Arch, Changing the Guard takes place daily at 11.00 am (10.00 am on Sundays) and lasts about half an hour; it is normally held on Horse Guards Parade by the arch of Horse Guards Building.