



THE DIARY

Barnaby Barford: The Tower of Babel at the V&A

Artist's impression of a section of The Tower
Picture: (c) Barnaby Barford

A ceramic installation of biblical proportion

TUESDAY, SEP 08- SUNDAY, NOV 01

In a rather unusual celebration of retail this site-specific exhibition by Barnaby Barford at the [Victoria & Albert Museum](#) will feature a six-metre-high ceramic tower composed of 3,000 individual bone china buildings each depicting a real London shop. Barford photographed over 6,000 shop fronts covering every postcode of London for the project and the shots are being made into ceramic transfers and fired onto fine bone china in Stoke-on-Trent to produce the individual shops.

The Tower will reflect London's society and economy – with the shops at its base being derelict, while those balanced precariously at its pinnacle will be the capital's most exclusive boutiques. It's basically a social comment on those seeking fulfilment via consumerism – likening this pursuit to the biblical Tower of Babel's attempt to reach heaven. However, it's more a celebration than an indictment and if you're looking for proof, each of the pieces will ultimately be available to buy at the museum shop.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

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