**Around 1,500 ‘WHEN?’ and ‘WHY?’ Tiles Will Appear on London’s Thames Foreshore**

exact dates: 8–11 January 2026

location: Bankside Beach, between Millennium Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge / the South Bank of the Thames in London

quantity: around 1,500

artist: 742 (street artist)

On the South Bank of the Thames in London [(location](https://maps.app.goo.gl/FHDE3wdohpVZ2Uhr8)), people have begun discovering small concrete tiles stamped with the words “WHEN?” and “WHY?”

I Have Only Two Questions is a new work by the anonymous street artist 742. From 8 to 11 January, the artist will continue adding palm-sized question tiles on Bankside Beach, between Millennium Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge. In total, around 1,500 such art objects are planned.

The work invites open, informal interaction and will be accessible during low tides from 8 to 11 January 2026. Every object is handmade and signed by the artist.

*"I often watch people searching the riverbank for artefacts and traces of the past (mudlarking). Others just look for stones to keep as a keepsake. This kind of searching doesn’t necessarily imply a result; it’s always a process, a way of being. At some point, I began to wonder what would happen if, instead of objects, people started finding something abstract, for example, questions.*

*We live in a world where, on the one hand, there is access to an enormous amount of information, often just “junk”. On the other hand, we exist in a state of not knowing and uncertainty, facing distressing and unjust events every day, for which there are no simple explanations. As a result, more and more questions and doubts appear.*

*The words WHEN and WHY were chosen deliberately. For me, WHEN is about survival; WHY comes later, when reflection begins.*

***I Have Only Two Questions****is about each person’s individual experience. It was important to me that it didn’t sound like an interrogation, a demand, or a slogan. That’s why the tiles are small and unobtrusive, preserving the element of chance in the search: you may find them, or you may not notice them at all. Everyone decides how to interact with them: walk past, take one, or leave it where it is. After all, we’ve accumulated many questions, and they will be different for each of us,” the artist comments.*

Thu 8 January, 10am–1pm  
Fri 9 January, 10am–1pm  
Sat 10 January, 11am–2pm  
Sun 11 January, 11am–2pm

\*All times approximate  
[Tide Times](https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast-and-sea/tide-tables/2/113#2026-01-09)

**Who is 742?​**

742 is an anonymous street artist working with temporary interventions in public space. 742 explores themes of memory and collective experience, with the site itself functioning as a carrier of meaning and an inseparable part of the work.

The artist has realised large-scale projects in London and beyond, including the 60-metre mural “Poetry of Numbers. A Hundred Years in the Shadow of War”, created on the Thames foreshore in Tilbury. In 2025, the artist also presented the large-scale textile installation[“Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”](https://londoncult.co.uk/en/where-have-all-the-flowers-gone-an-anti-war-artwork-by-street-artist-742-appears-on-the-runway-of-the-former-raf-greenham-common/), installed across the former RAF Greenham Common site.

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**Photo**  
742\_2Questions\_H\_001.jpg  
“WHEN?” and “WHY?” tiles. *I Have Only Two Questions*, 2026. © 742  
  
742\_2Questions\_H\_002.jpg  
Handmade concrete “WHEN?” / “WHY?” tiles—part of around 1,500 pieces—made for *I Have Only Two Questions*, 2026. © 742  
  
742\_2Questions\_H\_003.jpg  
“WHEN?” / “WHY?” tiles on Bankside Beach, London (Thames foreshore). *I Have Only Two Questions*, 2026. © 742