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<Hero shot>

From 8 Jan 2017

**LOOK UP: BLADE**

**Nayan Kulkarni**
Installation, Visual Art

Queen Victoria Square

Free

<Video of Blade Journey>

**Summary**

Conceived by artist Nayan Kulkarni, *Blade* has been created for *Look Up*, a programme of temporary artworks created for the city’s public spaces and places. It uses one of the first B75 Rotor blades made in Hull and changes its status to that of a readymade artwork. The 75 meters it is the world’s largest, handmade fibre glass component cast as a single element.

FAQS:

* What is a readymade?
Readymades can be ordinary, manufactured objects that are selected by the artist as a creative act and represented in such a way that by changing its useful function it becomes art. The term was first used by French artist Marcel Duchamp in the early 1900s to describe a number of his works including, [*Fountain*](http://www.tate.org.uk/artworks/fountain-1), a men’s urinal which he submitted for exhibition, signed and dated, ‘R Mutt 1917’.
* Why in Queen Victoria Square

‘Blade’ appeared as a surprise in the square, like a ship in bottle raising the question *How did it get here and why?* It is so large that for a few weeks it interrupts people’s expectations and movement, making them adapt to walking around rather than simply through the square. It is temporary and in time will simply become a memory of what was there in 2017.

* What is Blade made of?
Blade is one of the first Siemens rotor blades to be manufactured in Hull and is hand made using fibreglass, balsa wood and epoxy resin.
* How big is each blade?

A 8mw rotor blade measures 75m in length (the wingspan of an A380 air plane) and weighs 26T.

* Are all turbine blades the same?
Every blade is handmade and unique. Three blades similar in weight are chosen for a turbine to ensure the rotation will be balanced.
* How many people are involved in making the blade?
Hundreds of people are involved in making each blade. At some point all of the staff at Siemen’s will have been involved with creating Blade.
* Who is Nayan Kulkarni?
A multi-media artist whose work engages with ideas of place, time, technology and perception. His previous work has included diverse media such as light, video, installation, sculpture and photography. He is particularly interested in the way that art can transform public spaces and what they might mean. He conceived of the *Blade* installation as a way of disrupting Queen Victoria Square and changing people’s experience of it, pointing towards the often hidden industrial and economic forces that shape our cities and communities.

**Venue**
Queen Victoria Square
Hull
HU1 3RQ

**Credit**
Commissioned by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 in partnership with Siemens and with the support of Green Port Hull.

Project Engineers: Arup

Support Fabrication: Pearlgreen Engineering

Transport: Abnormal Load Engineering Ltd., & North Midland Construction Plc

Curators: Hazel Colquhoun & Andrew Knight