**Volunteer Briefing Notes - *BLEACHED***

**29 Jul - 17 Sep 2017**

**OVERVIEW**

Thank you for signing up to Volunteer for *BLEACHED*. Conceived and created by artist Tania Kovats, *BLEACHED* has been created for Look Up, a programme of temporary artworks created for the city’s public spaces and places. This is the second of three Look Up co-commissions with The Deep.

**WHAT IS LOOK UP?**

Look Up is a year-long programme of artists’ works made specifically for Hull’s public places and spaces, designed to challenge people’s perceptions of Hull and offer different ways to experience the city.

Look Up will present a series of new artworks to intrigue and inspire throughout 2017, created in partnership with organisations including The Deep, GF Smith and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Previous Look Up commissions have included:

* *Blade* conceived by artist Nayan Kulkarn in Queen Victoria Square, January – March, which used one of the first B75 Rotor blades made in Hull and changed its status to that of a readymade artwork.
* *The City Speaks* by Michael Pinsky, on the tower of the Hull Tidal Barrier (newly listed!) in place from February 2017 until 31st Dec 2017. A steel lectern located on the quayside of Humber Dock provides a platform for members of the public to broadcast their thoughts and feelings. A microphone captures their words and sends them to a data processing cloud which transcribes these words into a scrolling dot-matrix text ascending the tidal barrier.
* The first co-commission with The Deep, *Washed Up Car-go* by Chris Dobrowolski – installed from April to June 2017, 3 cars in the car park of The Deep containing a “beach” and washed up items, sound and video, commenting on plastics pollution
* *The Train Track and the Basket*, by Claire Barber at Hull Paragon Railway station from April to June and now extended until the end of the year. This is a series of huge window vinyls on the arched windows at the station entrance, exploring he 19th and 20th century "Transmigration" phenomenon in Hull.
* *Paper City* – for 10 days at the beginning of July, 8 installations made from paper in places and spaces around the Fruitmarket. A co-commission with Hull paper merchant GF Smith, whose “Colorplan” range was used in all the installations. This project also incorporated the research into and reveal of the World’s Favourite Colour.

**BLEACHED**

*BLEACHED* is a new sculpture, the second commission in a collaboration between The Deep and Hull 2017 as part of *Look Up,* a series of temporary artworks around the city. It will take place at Block C, C4DI and in public areas of The Deep. There will be an event manager on duty at all times at Block C, where volunteers will be based.

*BLEACHED* has been created by Tania Kovats as her response to both the beauty of coral and its fragile position in the world’s ecosystem.

Kovats first visited The Deep in spring 2016 and was captivated by their coral exhibit, a small display compared to the main tank housing sharks and rays, but one that made a huge impression on her - describing it as an ““*underwater world of intensely rich colour and endlessly fascinating forms where you can see into a landscape of dreams”.*

In 2016, as Kovats developed her ideas for this work, a major global coral bleaching event took place, unprecedented in its scale (93% of the Great Barrier Reef was thought to be affected). Coral bleaching takes place as a result of rising sea temperatures - when the sea is too warm, corals expel the zooxanthellea algae that give them their brilliant colours, leaving them ghostly bone white and at risk. The corals are not dead, and can grow back given the correct conditions, but they are under extreme stress and very vulnerable.

At the same time as Kovats’ work developed, The Deep were undertaking a major refurbishment of one of their largest exhibits, the Lagoon. This display had large amounts of specially fabricated model coral. The Deep were able to salvage this coral and send it to Tania’s studio, where it has been re-used to create the *BLEACHED* sculpture. The work is a plinth sculpture, a style that the artist has worked with before, where the contours of the plinth mirror the work, creating a slice through the coral reef. Her sculpture presents a starkly beautiful representation of a potentially devastating environmental event.

Tania Kovats has worked closely with the coral experts at The Deep in researching and developing this project

Kovats has said “All my work is a response to our relationship with water. *BLEACHED* is my sculptural response to a clear indicator of how climate change and our lack of respect for our planet is impacting directly on the health of our oceans. We ignore these signs at our peril. As the leading environmentalist and scientist Sylvia Earle said ‘No Water, No Life. No blue no green.’ I’m not sure any artist can directly change the world but artists are important witnesses that can choose to point at things that need to be seen more clearly.”

*BLEACHED* is accompanied by other works by Kovats, linked to themes of the ocean, our relationship with water, and the environment. At the Block C, C4DI @the Dock exhibition space there are new drawings on canvas, *Sea Mark*, created specifically for Hull as part of the *BLEACHED* commission. Also on exhibition are 3 significant existing sculptures –ocean bowls entitled *Atlantic, Pacific* and *Indian.* These large-scale shallow, metal bowls reflect the shape of the world’s oceans lifted from the globe, filled with salt water which is allowed to evaporate and form a crust of salt “tide lines”.

Showing in public areas at The Deep are the barnacle sculpture *Colony* (at the viewing window overlooking the car park on the 3rd floor) and a series of evaporation ink drawings (in the top floor of the café).

Sadly, the coral tank that Tania loved so much on her initial visit to The Deep suffered damage at The Deep later last year. The curators are working patiently behind the scenes to grow new coral in specially created tanks, but it will take years to replace – as in the huge scale damage being sustained around the globe. It has also recently transpired that 2017 is seeing another huge scale coral bleaching episode.

Tania Kovats’ practice encompasses drawing, sculpture, installation, writing and commissions for the public realm. Her work is often concerned with the natural environment. She has exhibited extensively in the UK and abroad, has been artist in residence and research fellow at numerous scientific and academic institutions around the world, and in 2015 was nominated for the Max Mara Art Prize for Women. Drawing is a key part of her practice and she is currently Course Director for MA Drawing at University of the Arts, London.

Tania is represented by Pippy Houldsworth Gallery in London, website [www.houldsworth.co.uk](http://www.houldsworth.co.uk)

There are also some good interviews with her at

background articles –

 <http://www.anothermag.com/design-living/8110/tania-kovats-on-evaporating-sculptures>

https://rareredsquirrel.wordpress.com/2012/11/26/review-of-galapagos-exhibition/

**YOUR ROLE ON BLEACHED**

It is important that you read *and* understand the contents of these briefing notes prior to your shift to help you perform your duties.

If there is anything that is not clear, please ensure that you clarify the position with the Event Manager on your volunteer shift.

**KEY HULL 2017 STAFF**

Hannah Williams Walton, Assistant Producer

Andrew Knight, Look Up Curator

Hazel Colquhoun, Look Up Curator

Fraser Briggs, Event Manager (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)

Joe Jefford, Event Manager (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

**KEY CONTACT NUMBER**

Please only contact event managers on the day of your shift. Please email prior to this.

Fraser Briggs, Event Manager - 07599920452

Joe Jefford, Event Manager - 07508802489

**PARKING**

There are a number of 3 hour free parking areas around Fruitmarket are that you can use. The car park at The Deep is Pay & Display. As parking is at a premium for visitors during peak periods, we would be grateful if volunteers could find alternative parking for their shifts or use public transport.

**SHIFT MEETING POINT**

You must sign in at the beginning of your shift by signing in with the Event Manager at Block C, C4DI.

**YOUR ROLE**

Your role is a Visitor Information role. Volunteers will be present in the Block C, C4DI space to answer any questions that members of the public may have about *BLEACHED* and to be a friendly Hull 2017 presence. The Event Manager may also ask you to walk onto Humber St and give out leaflets, encouraging people to visit the project.

There will be interpretation panels for *BLEACHED* in Block C , and also on windows at the entrances to The Deep, with information about the installation, but please also familiarise yourself with the information in this document. There will also be leaflets about the project which visitors can get from Block C C4DI The Deep and you can have some to give out if you would like to carry a few in your backpack

**ON SHIFT**

Please make sure you are in your volunteer uniform, make sure you’re prepared for the weather.

There are toilets on the ground floor of Block C – for volunteer/event manager use only, not for the general public.

We recommend that you bring a refillable water bottle with you. The bar at Humber Street Gallery will be able to refill this for you if you ask.

Tea and Coffee will be available from Nibble during your shift break – please ask the event manager for details.

**SAFETY WHILE ON SHIFT**

If you go out onto Humber St, please keep with or in sight of at least one other volunteer

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE DAMAGING *BLEACHED* WHILE I AM VOLUNTEERING?**

Please make sure you do not put yourself in a dangerous situation. Please report any damage or dangerous behavior to the Event Manager.

**AFTER SHIFT**

You must sign out at with the Event Manager after your shift end time. Please let the Event Manager know if you have any feedback from your shift and they will pass this on.

**HEALTH & SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Please note this important extract from our Health and Safety Policy, bearing in mind that we expect you to act in the manner of a Hull 2017 employee whilst volunteering at the event:

*“All employees have a legal duty to take care of their own health and safety and the safety of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions, and to co-operate with Hull 2017 to enable it to carry out its responsibilities*

*They must not interfere or misuse anything provided to ensure people’s health & safety.*

*They also have a responsibility to report hazards and unsafe practices of which they become aware to their supervisor.*

*The employee should take all reasonable steps to make the situation safe (without putting themselves at risk) until it can be dealt with.*

*It is a responsibility of all Hull 2017 employees to comply with the Health, Safety and Welfare Policy and associated arrangements, and to co-operate with Hull 2017 on its implementation.*

*They must ensure that they are fully aware of their own health & safety responsibilities, these will be detailed in this document.*  *Employees are reminded that failure to comply with health and safety requirements could also lead to disciplinary action.”*

As a Volunteer, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are not undertaking any activity for which you have not been appropriately trained or for which you could be defined in statutory terms as not 'competent'.

If you are in any doubt regarding any activity you are being asked to undertake, it is your duty and responsibility to ask the advice of the Event Manager.

**GENERAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Assisting individuals who may require FIRST AID:

Please contact the Event Manager

If you witness a serious incident please report this to the Event Manager.

 If you feel you are in immediate danger call 999.

If a member of the public is behaving in a threatening manner please leave Block C, C4DI and inform the Event Manager and Hull 2017 volunteers if possible and move somewhere you feel safe

If you have a SAFEGUARDING concern, involving a vulnerable adult please inform the Event Manager. In all cases a Safeguarding Report form should be completed by the witness.

**YOUR ATTITUDE**

Your attitude will have a major influence on the success of the event. It is important that you always try to be HELPFUL and COURTEOUS and to SMILE and be FRIENDLY when you are dealing with the public. This is particularly relevant if you must deal with complaints.

Be careful not to provoke an incident by your attitude. People must be treated with respect at all times. Do not touch members of the public. Try to avoid confrontations. Remember it is usually right to walk away from a situation if you feel it is becoming confrontational. If in any doubt walk away and report it to the Event Manager who will pass this on to a member of Hull 2017 staff. This is NOT a sign of failure on your part, but an indication of good judgement.

**FAQS**

**Where are the nearest public toilets?**

Members of the public can use the toilets at The Deep even if they aren’t visiting The Deep or if they haven’t got their ticket yet. The nearest toilets are located on the ground floor near the shop till and past the reception desk. On Humber St, the nearest toilets are at Humber St Gallery

**What other Look Up Projects are on:**

The City Speaks by Michael Pinsky and the Train Track and the Basket will both be up and running whilst *BLEACHED*  is installed. From 7 August, there will also be 2 new Look Up projects, Claire Morgan in the atrium at Princes Quay, and Bob & Roberta Smith at Hull School of Art and Design.

**What other Look Project projects will happen at The Deep?**

The final co-commission will be a large scale installation in December – please keep checking websites for details.

**NB –** you don’t need to buy a ticket to see the other works in *BLEACHED* at The Deep – one is just outside the lifts on the 3rd floor, one is in the top floor of the café. Visitors can go in these areas without tickets, and without waiting in the queue, if they ask staff.