**Briefing Note Cornershop**

***This is a Freedom of Expression Centre* 3 August – 5 September 2017**

**Bob & Roberta Smith**

bobandrobertasmith.co.uk

Bob and Roberta Smith will declare Hull School of Art and Design a “Freedom of Expression Centre” during the summer break of 2017. In a joint project between the School of Art and Hull 2017, *This is a Freedom of Expression Centre* will comprise:

* A large scale new public artwork by Bob and Roberta Smith – a sign on the top of the School of Art and Design building “This is a Freedom of Expression Centre” (outline images attached). To be in place for the duration of the project
* An exhibition of works by Bob and Roberta Smith, plus works by staff and students at the Hull School of Art and Design, on the theme of Freedom of Expression. The exhibition will inhabit both the Brodrick gallery in the foyer of the building, and other spaces throughout the Art School. Exhibition will run 3 August – 5 September, PV 2nd August
* The exhibition will include a significant new work made especially for this project by Bob & Roberta Smith, inspired by his recent work on the nature of protest and a particular encounter with a black rights activist in the US (see below).
* The project will also include 2 days of workshops run by Bob & Roberta Smith on this them – 4 & 5 August at HSAD. (Nature of participants to be confirmed, it may be invited art students/art 6th form students rather than general public).
* On the final weekend of the project, Bob’s band The Apathy Band will perform at the Adelphi Saturday Sept 2 ,8pm, this will also be part of the Freedom Festival, se the Adelphi webpage here http://www.theadelphi.com/events/bob-roberta-smith-and-the-apathy-band/
* On Sunday Sept 3, in the afternoon (time TBC) again linked to and jointly promoted by the Freedom Festival, there will be a series of Freedom Talks of which this project is part. One talk will be by the black rights activist Blair Imani whose words have inspired Bob’s new work.

Here is some text from H2017’s brochure which includes some quotes from Bob as background:

During its summer break, Hull School of Art and Design will become a *Freedom of Expression Centre*, hosting talks, workshops and a new exhibition curated by Bob and Roberta Smith, exploring the differing degrees of freedom experienced by artists.

It features a significant new work by Bob and Roberta Smith, following his most recent investigations into the nature of modern protest.

“To show this new work at Hull School of Art and Design during the City of Culture year is a huge honour.

*This is a Freedom of Expression Centre*has been inspired by two key experiences of mine. The first experience spans the past five years as an advocate for the arts, which has taken me on a journey to try to understand clearly what art does, and explore why democratic societies generally support and defend the arts, while repressive regimes curb them.  The second experience was an interview I conducted with a Black Lives Matter activist in New York, while making a programme on protest for BBC4. The interviewee, Blair Imani, talked of her own experiences of prejudice and violence; you can see her inspiring interview in the exhibition.

Art is about supporting people and encouraging people, not opposing them or telling people what to think.  I want people to reflect on what art can do, and what latent potential there is in all of us.”

Bob has recently created a new work ( a new sign) at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, continuing his ongoing involvement in promoting the arts in schools <http://www.ysp.co.uk/whats-on/open-air/bob-and-roberta-smith>

He will be creating a project for the Folkestone Triennial <http://www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk/artist/bob-and-roberta-smith/> - (the painting in the background of this image is the type of work that he’s doing for Hull, a large scale hand painted text work transcribing a complete interview)