***BLEACHED***

Tania Kovats

Kovats first visited The Deep in spring 2016 and was captivated by their coral exhibit, a small display, 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”.*

*BLEACHED* is her response to both the beauty of coral and its fragile position in the world’s ecosystem.

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.”

In 2016, as Kovats developed 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, damaging the algae that gives coral its brilliant colours. The bone white corals are not dead, and can grow back, but they are under extreme stress and very vulnerable.

*BLEACHED* re-uses specially fabricated coral, salvaged from a decommissioned display – the Lagoon - within The Deep. The work is a plinth sculpture, 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.

*BLEACHED* is accompanied by other works by Kovats, linked to themes of the ocean, our relationship with water, and the environment. These include sculptures and drawings, and are on show alongside *BLEACHED* at Block C, @the Dock (C4DI) and alsoin public areas of The Deep.

Tania Kovats’ practice encompasses drawing, sculpture, installation, writing and commissions for the public realm. She 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. She is currently Course Director for MA Drawing at University of the Arts, London.

**Back cover**

*BLEACHED* is the second in a series of co-commissions between Hull 2017 and The Deep, part of the *Look Up* programme of temporary commissions for Hull’s public places and spaces. Artists have been invited to work with The Deep – the building and its surroundings, the collection, staff and visitors – to create new site-specific temporary artworks across scale and media.

The next *Look Up* co-commission between The Deep and Hull 2017 will be in the winter of 2017, please keep checking websites for details.

Artist: Tania Kovats

any other credits from Tania

? Deep staff

*Look Up* curators – Hazel Colquhoun and Andrew Knight

web addresses etc, H2017, The Deep