**CONFIDENTIAL**

**HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017**

**‘BLADE’, Nayan Kulkarni**

**1 Introduction**

‘Look Up’ is an ambitious programme of temporary artworks, being realised in the city centre specifically for 2017. It responds to, and will reveal in new and surprising ways, Hull’s remarkable architecture, streets and public spaces.

Artists, architects and designers have been invited to create work that alters the city in some way, shifting perceptions of the place, turning the familiar into something strange and wonderful, playful and celebratory. Commissions are broad ranging and include lighting installations, digital, interactive and socially engaged works, as well as sculptural and architectural interventions*.* The city becomes a dynamic setting for, and subject of, the artists’ work, rather than a stage on which the work is displayed.

The artist Nayan Kulkarni, who is leading on the implementation of a creative lighting scheme for the city centre, will mark the launch of 2017’s ‘Made in Hull’ season with the dramatic temporary display of a single 75m wind turbine blade installed to rise above Queen Victoria Square. This will be one of the very first blades to be made at Siemens new facility in Hull, crafted by people from Hull.

**2 ‘Blade’**

At the start of the twentieth century the Futurists recognized the dawn of the machine age through their celebration of technology; the machine as a means to power and ultimately to war. We now know of a different way, we see differently and are learning to understand a new order of the machine. In this sense the blade of wind turbine, a harvester of energy, is more than a means to an end. It is a material fact, a weight, a pure form: a sculpture made in Hull.

‘Blade’ will transform Hull’s street scape through the imposition of a single wind turbine blade. As with J.G.Ballard’s ‘The Drowned Giant’ or Richard Serra’s ‘Tilted Arc’ this will be a profound material gesture, a spectacle, an obstacle and an object of wonder. This *readymade* artwork, 75 meters long, will divide the street forming a temporary impediment to a free flow. Carefully positioned it will force us to drift around its arabesque edges, our sight taking the place of the breeze. The twisting wing although inert, at rest in the square, speaks of movement but not of freedom.

‘Blade’ seeks to raise the status of the blade to art, positioning it in the history of material forms that transcend function pointing us towards beauty, reminding us of its relationship to the sublime.

The installation of ‘Blade’ will be an integral component of the opening of Hull UK City of Culture on 1st January 2017. As part of the ‘Made in Hull’ season ‘Blade’ will be an unforgettable physical manifestation, creating an opportunity for anyone to see what is made in the city in a way which will surprise, intrigue and engender pride. This blade will slice through a public space, amazing in its scale and physically breathtaking, an expression of a city at the forefront of sustainable technology.