Elephant in the Room

An artwork by Claire Morgan

Claire Morgan’s sculpture, based on the life-size form of a whale, has been made from many thousands of fragments of torn paper, suspended on nylon threads. With obsessive precision she, and her assistants, have spent months meticulously making this work for Hull and this week they are installing it, gradually raising it up into the central space of Princes Quay.

Titled *Elephant in the Room* the sculpture has been modelled on the Greenland Right Whale (a historical name for the Bowhead Whale), which grows to an adult length of 13 – 16m. In this work, suspended from its tail, the whale points downwards towards the water of Princes Quay which flows beneath the floor. With historical references to Hull’s connections with the whaling industry there is something incongruous, almost disturbing, in seeing this whale as a transient presence in the centre.

Claire Morgan says, *"With my installations, I hope to create things that provoke thought, wonder and something of the impossible**or**the unknown.  A theme I constantly come back to is time: the passing of time and how it shapes our lives as we try to control it and halt it.”*

*Elephant in the Room* consists of 12,000 fragments of hand torn paper, arranged across 4,270 individual threads over 109 layers. The sculpture, which is 16.5m high, uses over 14 kms of nylon thread.

Claire Morgan was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and currently lives and works in Gateshead in the North East of England. Claire exhibits internationally, with solo exhibitions in museums and galleries across Europe, and works included in museum shows in US and Australia.

The artwork will be on display in Princes Quay from 7th August – 16th October. It has been commissioned by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and forms part of *Look Up –* a programme of temporary artworks curated by Hazel Colquhoun and Andrew Knight for the city’s public spaces and places.

With thanks to our funding partners (logos)

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