**BLEACHED**

Tania Kovats

Mixed media including model coral

*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 has been created by Tania Kovats as her response to boththe beauty of underwater coral landscapes and out of concern for their fragile position in the world’s ecosystem.

Tania Kovats first visited The Deep in spring 2016 and was captivated by their coral exhibit, 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 Tania began developing this work, a major global coral bleaching event took place, unprecedented in its scale. Coral bleaching takes place due to 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, but they are under extreme stress and very vulnerable.

*BLEACHED* recycles specially fabricated coral from The Deep, salvaged from a previous display which was decommissioned in 2016. The work creates a slice through a “bleached” coral reef, a starkly beautiful representation of a potentially devastating environmental event.

*BLEACHED* is accompanied by other works by Tania, linked to themes of the ocean, and our relationship with water and the environment, on display here and in 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. In 2015 she was nominated for the Max Mara Art Prize for Women. She is currently Course Director for MA Drawing at University of the Arts London.