**Volunteer Briefing**

**Part 1**

**Humber Street Gallery**

**Jan 2017**

**INTRODUCTION**

Humber Street Gallery is a contemporary arts space positioned in Hull's cultural quarter, the Fruit Market. It comprises a contemporary visual arts led gallery and a vibrant café.

This document is designed to give a thorough context to the building, its spaces and its objectives in order to inform volunteers who will be on-shift with the gallery spaces during 2017.

**AIM**

Our aim is to be forward-thinking in our choice of exhibitions, and to present the best of all aspects of art and design to our audience by including a range of contemporary visual art.

Without losing our artistic integrity we will often include a focus on popular culture and social history to broaden the appeal and accessibility of our exhibitions. We aim to ensure Humber Street is a venue where people can learn, engage and become inspired.

We want to create an environment that instils a sense of confidence, enjoyment, understanding and a desire to return again and again by providing an exhibitions programme that appeals to a wide cross-section of people regardless of age, background or ability.

We hope to generate debate, expand boundaries and encourage change and development, both for those familiar with the arts and those new to this arena.

Humber Street Gallery will primarily serve as a showcase for major commissioned exhibitions and loans from established lenders, creating strong working relationships with such institutions as the Tate, Magnum, Film and Video Umbrella and the Crafts Council.

**AUDIENCE**

Humber Street aims to enhance the quality of the visitor experience whilst also raising its profile as a credible venue for exhibitions of importance. Over the next five years we will look to strengthen existing relationships and develop new collaborative commissioning partnerships.

Although we will strive to raise the cultural aspirations of our audience, we also want to attract new audiences into the gallery environment and encourage lifelong learning amongst local people, visitors, educational groups and those already interested in the arts. For this reason, we aim to present a programme of exhibitions that is relevant and accessible to all.

**VENUE CONTEXT**

The gallery has been created for its community - as an asset and resource for it to enjoy, embrace and benefit from. All aspects of the venue are underpinned by the following charitable objectives:

1. To advance the education of the public through the promotion of artistic and cultural events and exhibitions.
2. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the purposes of improving the conditions of life.
3. The relief of unemployment for the public benefit in such ways as may be thought fit.
4. The retention, conservation and preservation of Humber Street for the purpose of furthering the objects and the conservation and preservation of other such buildings of historic and architectural importance.
5. Such other charitable purposes consistent with the objects above for the benefit of the inhabitants of Hull, and the public at large.

**VISION**

Our vision is to become *‘An extraordinary destination for the arts’.*

This journey will see us achieving the following objectives, to:

1. Become a leading visual arts centre in the North of England
2. Be cemented firmly at the heart of Hull’s cultural offer
3. Be alive with creativity and full of energy
4. Have a thriving local audience base
5. Be key to supporting and developing creative practice in the region
6. Become a nationally renowned exhibition commissioning venue.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTISTIC PROGRAMME**

Humber Street Gallery is opening during Hull's UK City of Culture year with a yearlong exciting arts and cultural programme, celebrating the unique character of the city, its people, history and geography.

In 2017, the programme runs from early February to 31 December. We have a responsibility therefore to ensure we both offer audiences a range of high quality experiences and also that we play our part in supporting the local arts and creative sector to thrive and grow.

Humber Street Gallery intends to explore best practice around capturing, curating and disseminating knowledge about the crucial importance of cultural heritage and the visual arts. We hope to bring together museums, galleries, artists, funding bodies and donors to examine and provoke discussion around the importance and long-term impact through collaborative partnership.

**BRAND & IMAGE**

**Concept**

Hull’s brand new contemporary art space - presenting the best of all aspects of art and design through a forward-thinking and diverse programme of exhibitions, catering to a wide audience base.

**Look & Feel**

Both the gallery and the logo are designed to be a number of things:

1. Timeless rather than trend-led.
2. Distinctive without shouting – the brand is designed to sit in the background – the art is intended to do the shouting.
3. Accessible to all (easily drawn in a text book, easily transferred to large print).
4. It forms the 64 from the Gallery’s street address.

**Tone of Voice**

Ambitious and proud, sometimes challenging and provocative but never at the expense of being welcoming.

**ABOUT THE BUILDING**

64 Humber Street was once The Shakespeare Hotel during the 1840s. At this time the adjacent building (now FRUIT) was the New Theatre, which brought a thriving economy to the area. 64 Humber Street was refurbished during the 1890s, when six carved heads of Shakespeare were added to its frontage. It closed following heavy bombing damage sustained in an air raid on 9 May 1941.

As Humber Street became the location of Hull’s Fruit Market the sight was then built specifically as a warehouse in 1948, replacing the bomb damaged buildings. From then until now the site was used solely for the fruit trade, with fruit sold downstairs and banana ripening rooms situated upstairs. The building operated for this purpose until trades packed away their final boxes in 2009, marking the end of the old Fruit Market.

**EXHIBITIONS & ARTISTS**

**Humber Street Gallery**

A new contemporary art space for Hull, rooted in the history of contemporary art practice that the city has inspired. The programme will be responsive to and reflective of the themes and seasons of Hull 2017.

Our aim is to be forward-thinking in our choice of exhibitions, and to present the best of all aspects of art and design to our audience by including a range of contemporary visual art, design, fashion, photography and craft. Without losing our artistic integrity we often include a focus on popular culture and social history to broaden the appeal and accessibility of our exhibitions. We aim to ensure Humber Street Gallery is a venue where people can learn, engage and become inspired. We want to create an environment that instils a sense of confidence, enjoyment, understanding and a desire to return again and again by providing an exhibitions programme that appeals to a wide cross-section of people regardless of age, background or ability. We hope to generate debate, expand boundaries and encourage change and development, both for those familiar with the arts and those new to this arena.

The Gallery is primarily serving as a showcase for major commissioned exhibitions and loans, from established lenders, establishing strong working relationships with such institutions as Tate, Magnum, Film and Video Umbrella and the Crafts Council. Humber Street Gallery aims to enhance the quality of the visitor experience whilst also raising the profile as a credible venue for exhibitions of importance.

Although we aim to be contemporary and forward-thinking in our choice of exhibitions and strive to raise the cultural aspirations of our audience, we also want to attract new audiences into the gallery environment and encourage lifelong learning amongst local people, visitors, educational groups and those already interested in the arts. For this reason, we aim to present a programme of exhibitions that is relevant and accessible to all.

Exhibitions will not, by virtue of content, design or interpretation, show bias towards nor exclude any sector of the community, and our open submission policy for exhibition applications will ensure proposals are considered from artists and makers at any stage of their professional development.

**SEASON ONE: MADE IN HULL**

**January – March**

In this first chapter, we welcome the world to Hull.

We’ll shake up the preconceptions and show people what Hull is really made of and the many incredible things Hull has made for the world. From theatre, music and poetry to wind turbines and caravans, Hull has long inspired great ideas, great people and great artists.

Hull knows about its contribution to the world, now it’s time everyone else did.

For much of the latter half of the 20th century, artist in Hull were at the forefront of developing live art and time based art, public art actions and counterculture activity. Rooted in the Fluxus movement and inspired by William Burroughs (both of which were directly aware of activity in the city) artist groups developed new ways of expression. From COUM through to Bow Gamelan, Paul Birwell and the Boat House and finally onto Hull Time Based Arts, Hull was home to and inspiration for many artists working on the fringe of accepted norms. The opening season at Hull Contemporary/64 Humber Street will celebrate this spirit rebellion that runs far deeper than just telling the king to F@!K Off!

**COUM – Wreckers of Civilisation**

**3 February – 22 March 2017`**

First retrospective of COUM transmissions and a series of live shows, talks and one-off events and new live art commissions, creating in effect a two month long festival celebrating and exploring the spirit and continuing global legacy of COUM.

Curated in association with Cosey Fanni Tutti and Andrew Wheatley from Cabinet, with archived loans from TATE and Cosey’s personal collection.

**Sarah Lucas -POWER IN WOMAN**

**3 February – 22 March 2017**

Three sculptures will be displayed each depicting a female figure in cast plaster. These works were first shown last year as part of Lucas’s acclaimed commission by the British Council for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, I SCREAM DADDIO. The custard-yellow colour scheme of the Venice exhibition was inspired in part by the walls of Soane’s drawing rooms. Lucas’s contemporary bodies will here be set in a powerful dialogue with the Soane’s intimate spaces and extensive collection of classical casts. Here we hope to emulate it.

Lucas has become recognised as one of Britain’s most significant contemporary artists. Spanning sculpture, photography and installation, her work has consistently been characterised by irreverent humour and the use of everyday ‘readymade’ objects – furniture, food, tabloid newspapers, tights, toilets, cigarettes – to conjure up sexual puns and corporeal fragments.

Work on loan from Sadie Coles HQ

**Re-Rooted (Hull Time Based Arts Mini Festival)**

**24 -26 March 2017**

Two-day creative event/closing party with a new program of performances. Featuring film events and site specific interventions by artists originally part of ROOT Festival/Hull Time Based Arts including contemporary artists both influenced and now emulating values of experimentation and risk.

The network of activities in cultural institutions, civic space and living environments will include: art and media installations, performances, film program, social events and creative information exchange.

There will also be new Commissions, informal symposia and publication investigating how current practice has been informed through radical and practical interventions of embodied and performative improvisation pioneered in Hull.

The event will be revelatory, radical and entertaining. ROOT set in a contemporary setting and within a new agenda of talent development and retention.

Curated in association with Mike Stubbs.

**SEASON TWO: ROOTS AND ROUTES**

**April – June**

Hull is a door to the UK, a gateway to Europe and a city connected to a new networked, globalised and digital world. This is a place of migration and transitions; like the tidal movements that govern its rivers, always in constant flux, often buffeted by outside influences beyond its control.

Where paths cross and journeys begin, this chapter will explore our unique place in a constantly changing world. With a distinctly international flavour, new partnerships and collaborations will form as Hull takes its place at the centre of UK culture for the year.

**SOMEWHERE BECOMING SEA**

**8 April – 17 June 2017**

‘Somewhere Becoming Sea’ is an exhibition of international artists’ works that examines the fluctuating boundaries between land and sea, at a time when a warming global climate threatens sea-level rises and equally far-reaching economic forces are having a similar impact on traditional patterns of maritime industry and trade. Highlighting Hull’s longstanding place as a gateway to the North Sea (and destinations beyond), the exhibition considers how the city has been at the sharp end of some of these changes, but is also at the forefront of a greater understanding of them. Capturing the elemental power of the sea as it hits the shore (and as it plays on people’s imagination), the works in the show reflect how the expanse of water that divides countries has always also been a channel that connects them.

Featuring recently produced work from artists from different parts of the North Sea region, the exhibition draws out affinities in history, culture, topography and language, and points to a shared interest in harnessing, moderating, or better appreciating the vital presence of the sea in our future ecology and economy. Encompassing works in many media, including moving-image, photography, audio, objects and text, ‘Somewhere Becoming Sea’ includes contributions from Simon Faithfull, Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen, Layla Curtis, Ruth Maclennan, Gunnar Jonnson, Alec Finlay and Hanna Tuulikki.

‘Somewhere Becoming Sea’ is curated by Steven Bode, and supported by Film and Video Umbrella.

**The Raft of Medusa –**

**Lucy+ Jorge Orta**

**8 April – 17 June 2017**

Lucy graduated with an honours degree in fashion-knitwear design from Nottingham Trent University in 1989, and began practising as a visual artist in Paris in 1992.

Lucy's sculptural work investigates the boundaries between the body and architecture, exploring their common social factors, such as communication and identity. She uses the media of drawing, sculpture, performance, video, and photography to realize a singular body of work. The Raft of the Medusa takes its historical reference point from the romantic depiction of the shipwreck Le Radeau de la Méduse by Théodore Géricault (1819-1819, Musée du Louvre, Paris). The piece is floating on an ocean of life buoys, debris from the Japanese Tsunami that has been aimlessly drifting on sea currents ever since. Time has eroded their colour and marine life has reclaimed them, until they were washed onto the shores of Alaska four years later. This multi-sensory installation includes the pungent smell of decaying rubber, seaweed, wooden planks and oil drums.

**WORM Mini Weekend Festival**

**23 June – 26 June 2017**

WORM is Rotterdam’s is a multi-media alternative cultural centre focused on experimental new media, avant-garde and underground art. They will assemble a collective of artists, filmmakers, musician, DJ’s and performers and travel to Hull via the ferry, creating a pop up version of WORM in Hull for a weekend.

**SEASON THREE: FREEDOM**

**July – September**

A season programme looking at colour, craft and making. With the celebration underway and a buzz in the air, the city will enter its summer season. Freedom is a platform for people to create debate, reflect and reimagine.

Hull has always attracted creative risk takers and rule breakers. It is a place that seems to inspire rebellion and freedom of thought, not bound by the conventions of others. As the plot thickens, this chapter will not only explore the pivotal role Hull played in the emancipation movement, but also a broader interpretation of equality and social justice for all.

With this seasons ethos in mind and working with the LGBTQ communities we champion that individuals make change happen. Working to ensure that LGBTQ role models and allies are visible throughout public life in order to create an environment that enables all lesbian, gay, bi and trans people to participate fully in society. In order to achieve a world where everyone, everywhere, is free to be themselves, we will work together, as diverse LGBTQ communities, and with our wider communities, to change and win hearts and minds.

**Paper City**

**30 June- 9 July 2017**

As part of the Look Up programme, Hull 2017 will commission artists working in paper to create a number of large scale installations within Hull Contemporary, initially for the weekend, city-wide event but to remain in situ for a longer period of time.

Part of the exhibition GF Smith will launch the world’s favourite colour

**The House of Kings and Queens**

**27 July – 23 September 2017**  
27th July 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of The Sexual Offences Act 1967 which is an Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom, that decriminalized homosexual acts in private between two men, both of whom had to be aged 21 or over. We will be looking at how things have changed over the last fifty years, but only in some countries as it’s still illegal in 77 countries to engage in homosexual acts. One of these countries is Sierra Leone.

Freetown, Hull’s sister city in Sierra Leone, where homosexuality has been illegal since British colonial rule in the 1800s, offers a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for being gay. While the law is rarely enforced by the judiciary system, people of the LGBT community in Sierra Leone face persecution of a different kind. Harassment, ridicule, eviction and violence are common afflictions at the hands of people who say homosexuality goes against their religious or cultural beliefs, and so the vast majority of LGBT people in Sierra Leone choose to keep their sexuality a guarded secret from the people around them.

But within the heart of Freetown, Hull’s sister city and Sierra Leone's Capital, lives a young transgender woman who has welcomed those of the gay community who are in need. Her home serves as a sanctuary for a small group of LGBT people who would otherwise have nowhere to go. Here, they don’t have to hide who they are, and can instead live without oppression whilst surrounded by those who understand and accept them. They call it ‘The House of Kings and Queens’, Lee Price has been commissioned to create a unique collection of photographs that acts as a window into the lives of its inhabitants, whilst exploring what it means to be gay in Freetown.

**States of Play**

**6 July 7 – 25 September 2017**

The exhibition will explore themes of craft, technology, inventiveness and play by prominent British and international makers. From robotics, making and coding, alongside handmade animation to gaming. The show will draw on connections between traditional craft practice and the ingenuity that fuels modern engineering and technology. The display will feature newly commissioned works but will also feature loans from makers, artists, public and private collections.

Play is human behaviour that spans race, gender, background: it is universal. Everyone understands play. States of Play invites us to rethink play and its value throughout life. In what has been called the century of play, this exhibition serves as a manifesto, seeking to reclaim and promote the role of play, to individuals and society, beyond our early years. It celebrates a playful approach made possible only by exceptional technique – the more skilful we become, the more at liberty we are to play with ideas and perceptions.

Play is an embodiment of freedom: ‘Play is freedom within constraint, which means improvising, tinkering, disputing the rules’ (Steven Johnson). States of Play launches the Humber Street programme for Season three, Freedom, providing a central platform for audiences to create, debate, reflect and reimagine, addressing questions of freedom and power in a city with a rich culture and tradition of both.

Curated in conjunction with Crafts Council and Fact, Liverpool.

**Hull Road Signs**

**2 October- 31 October 2017**

In 1965 one of the most ambitious and effective information design projects was launched in Britain. The British Road Sign appeared on our streets for the very first time 50 years ago and has occupied an important role in our lives ever since. From instructing us where to go and a safe speed to travel at, to making us aware of any hazards or road works. The signs designed by Jock Kinneir and Margaret Calvert standardised the road network, creating many of the signs we see today and produced two new typefaces: Transport and Motorway. The signage system was launched in 1965 and to celebrate its 50th anniversary we are planning a series of events that connect the north and south of England in 2015.

To mark this 50th anniversary leading artists and designers have transformed the familiar circle, triangle and square signs. They have developed concepts that evolve from current signs function of instructing people of speed limits and directions to poetically disrupting our everyday with designs that makes us stop, look and think about design and our environment in a slightly different way; less instructions and more pauses for thought.

Artists and Designers taking part in the project included Sir Peter Blake, Julian Opie, Sir Kenneth Grange, Neville Brody, Richard Rogers.

**SEASON FOUR: TELL THE WORLD**

**October – December**

As stories merge and new ones begin, we’ll start looking to the future and exploring what’s next.

We will celebrate the qualities that made Hull, and indeed the UK, stand apart in an unforgettable year of culture. Our sense of independence, our individuality, integrity and sense of humour. A Hull redefined within the Northern Powerhouse, but with a voice and confidence of a people on the up. As 2017 draws to a close you can tell this is the start of something special for Hull and something the world should hear.

**A Portrait of a City**

**14 October – 31 December**

Hull City of Culture are partnering with the international photographers co-operative Magnum Photos to create a new, bespoke exhibition, “Hull, Portrait of a City”; a celebration and exploration of the culture and creativity of The North – the people, stories, music, arts, culture, urbanism and architecture.

While most conversations around the idea of a ‘Northern Powerhouse’ have centred on politics and business, Portrait of a City will change the conversation and put artists and cultural architects at the centre of any such debate, exploring how the culture of the north has defined its identity and how it has powered its regeneration, civic and regional pride, and international reputation.

Hull, Portrait of a City aims to own the discussion about where, what and how. How we might define Hull. Should we try and define it? How has culture changed our cities and landscape? How has culture regenerated our cities and changed national and international perceptions. The impact that culture has on everything from economy to civic pride. How it has changed, how we might change it. How do we record it?

* **Olivia Arthur** <https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/olivia-arthur/>
* **Gueorgui Pinkhassov** <https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/gueorgui-pinkhassov/>
* **Martin Parr** <https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/martin-parr/>

**About Magnum Photos**

Magnum Photos is a photographic cooperative of great diversity and distinction owned by its photographer-members. With powerful individual vision, Magnum photographers chronicle the world and interpret its peoples, events, issues and personalities. Through its four editorial offices in New York, London, Paris and Tokyo, and a network of fifteen sub-agents, Magnum Photos provides photographs to the press, publishers, advertising, television, galleries and museums across the world.

**Lee Karen Stow**

**TORN**

**9 November – December 31st**

Hull born photographer Lee Karen Stow has worked in more than 60 countries as both a journalist and later as a photographer, often dipping in out of people's lives as assignments dictated. Yet five years ago she began work on a two-week project that has now become a permanent fixture in her life.

The poppy, despite its delicate appearance, is able to generate new life when everything else has been destroyed. Lee Karen Stow has photographed poppies of many colours to represent women around the world caught up in war. In the 1930s the rare white poppy was adopted by women as a symbol of peace.

Commemorating those who suffered through conflict has become a legacy of the First World War. During the centenary years, we often remember the war poem 'In Flanders Fields' written in 1915, by Lieutenant Colonel John Alexander McCrae.

Largely forgotten is the moment in 1918 when, inspired by this poem, an American, teacher Moina Belle Michael conceived the idea of the silk poppy as a blood red symbol, to forever remember the victims of war.  
In this exhibition Lee will show a selection of work never been exhibited before in a large format.

**Impossible Arts – Heads**

**1- 24 December 2017**

Impossible Arts latest participatory projection installation uses 3-D face capture and mouth animation to put words in the audience’s mouths. As dusk falls, three large translucent heads appear. Looking a bit like the giant Easter Island Heads, but each one of these moves, blinks, and seems almost alive - as they are all magically animated by projections. They show the faces of any audience members who use our quick self-portrait camera - so absolutely anyone can add their likeness and become part of the artwork.

But then as we watch, the heads begin to speak, to tell tales and even sing short fragments of songs as we put words in their mouths - all fully lip-synced.

Hear them speak and sing words they never said...

<http://www.impossible.org.uk/heads>

**Jamie Reid**

**Solo exhibition**

**2018**

An exhibition of the artists Jamie Reid's longstanding practice as an artist sits firmly within a tradition of English radical dissent that would include, for example, William Blake, Wat Tyler and Gerrard Winstanley. Like them, the work of dissent must offer, out of necessity, other social and spiritual models and Reid's practice is no exception. Known primarily for his iconic work for the Sex Pistols and Suburban Press his work gives form to some of the key issues of our times whilst responding with passionate anger and savage humour.

The ‘Casting Seeds’ exhibition will feature work from throughout the artist’s career and will include his original Sex Pistols mural flown in especially from Milan for the occasion. Other works have travelled from Germany and Brighton and will be a unique showcase of the artist’s career.

**BRIEFING – Look Up**

Second Installation

*‘The City Speaks’ by Michael Pinsky 03.02 -31.12.17*



**The Work**

The City Speaks is a major new commission for HULL 2017 by the artist Michael Pinsky.  It functions as a 21st century Speakers’ Corner in which open-air public speaking takes on epic proportions as spoken words are translated to text and relayed on the west tower supporting Hull’s tidal surge barrier.

A steel lectern located on the quayside of Humber Dock provides a platform for members of the public to broadcast their thoughts and feelings. A microphone captures their words and sends them to a data processing cloud which transcribes these words into a scrolling dot-matrix text ascending the tidal barrier. The plinth and the tidal barrier perfectly align at each end of Humber Street, allowing the speaker to see their own speech being displayed across Hull, embodied into one of the city’s architectural icons.

The work, which forms part of the ‘Look Up’ programme of artists’ commission for the city, was developed with The Light Lab and realised with the co-operation of the Environment Agency.

**Details**

The screen measures 16m high x 2m wide and uses a customised arrangement of ultra-light-weight LED video modules with a 60mm pixel pitch.

The installation uses voice recognition software known as Cloud Speech API which has been developed by Google to convert audio speech to text.  Speech API can stream text results, with the recognized text appearing almost immediately while speaking and can filter inappropriate content.

**The Artist**

Michael Pinsky is a British artist whose international projects have created innovative and challenging works in galleries and public spaces. He has undertaken many residencies that explore issues which shape and influence the use of our public realm. Taking the combined roles of artist, urban planner, activist, researcher, and resident, he starts residencies and commissions without a specified agenda, working with local people and resources, allowing the physical, social and political environment to define his working methodology.

His work has been shown at: TATE Britain; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chengdu; Saatchi Gallery; Victoria and Albert Museum; Institute for Contemporary Art, London; La Villette, Paris; BALTIC, Gateshead; Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow; Modern Art Oxford, Milton Keynes Gallery, Cornerhouse, Manchester; Liverpool Biennial, Centre de Création Contemporaine, Tours; Armory Center of the Arts, Los Angeles and the Rotterdam International Architectural Biennial.

Michael Pinsky graduated from the Royal College of Art. He has received awards from the RSA, Arts Council England, British Council, Arts and Business, the Wellcome Trust and his exhibition Pontis was shortlisted for the prestigious Gulbenkian Museums Award. 

**Quotes**

Michael Pinsky has described how,

*'Hull’s tidal surge barrier, the site for this work, plays a significant role in protecting the city from flooding. It has become a gateway guarding the future of Hull, not unlike Beverley Gate where, in 1642, Sir John Hotham refused Charles I entry to the city.  This act of defiance in the defence of freedom is widely acknowledged as the spark that ignited the English Civil War.*

*These principles of resistance and protection lie at the core of The City Speaks. This installation gives a new voice to the people of Hull and in doing so celebrates resilience and freedom.'*