**Volunteer Briefing Notes - *THIS IS A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CENTRE***

by Bob and Roberta Smith,

at Hull School of Art and Design

4 August – 3 September 2017

**OVERVIEW**

Thank you for signing up to volunteer for *THIS IS A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CENTRE*. Conceived and created by artist Bob and Roberta Smith, *THIS IS A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CENTRE* has been created for Look Up, a programme of temporary artworks created for the city’s public spaces and places, curated for Hull 2017 by Andrew Knight and Hazel Colquhoun.

**WHAT IS LOOK UP?**

Look Up is a year-long programme of artists’ works made specifically for Hull’s public places and spaces, designed to challenge people’s perceptions of Hull and offer different ways to experience the city.

Look Up will present a series of new artworks to intrigue and inspire throughout 2017, created in partnership with organisations including The Deep, GF Smith and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Previous Look Up commissions have included:

* *Blade* conceived by artist Nayan Kulkarni in Queen Victoria Square, January – March, which used one of the first B75 Rotor blades made in Hull at Siemens and changed its status to that of a readymade artwork.
* *The City Speaks* by Michael Pinsky, on the tower of the Hull Tidal Barrier (newly listed!) in place from February 2017 until 31st Dec 2017. 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 first co-commission with The Deep, *Washed Up Car-go* by Chris Dobrowolski – installed from April to June 2017, 3 cars in the car park of The Deep containing a “beach” and washed up items, sound and video, commenting on plastics pollution
* *The Train Track and the Basket*, by Claire Barber at Hull Paragon Railway station from April to June and now extended until the end of the year. This is a series of huge window vinyls on the arched windows at the station entrance, exploring the 19th and 20th century "Transmigration" phenomenon in Hull.
* *Paper City* – for 10 days at the beginning of July, 8 installations made from paper in places and spaces around the Fruitmarket. A co-commission with Hull paper merchant GF Smith, whose “Colorplan” range was used in all the installations. This project also incorporated the research into and reveal of the World’s Favourite Colour.
* Two other installations will be opening at the end of July/beginning of August – Tania Kovats *BLEACHED* atC4DI and *Elephant in the Room*  by Claire Morgan at Princes Quay.

**THIS IS A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CENTRE**

Bob and Roberta Smith will declare Hull School of Art and Design a “Freedom of Expression Centre” during the summer break of 2017. In a joint project between the School of Art and Hull 2017, *This is a Freedom of Expression Centre* will comprise:

* **A large scale new public artwork** by Bob and Roberta Smith – a 12 m long illuminated sign on the top of the School of Art and Design building “This is a Freedom of Expression Centre”. To be in place for the duration of the project. The maquette, hand-painted on wood, was made by Bob in his Kent studio. The design has fabricated in Hull on a large scale, with Bob intervening at intervals in the process to approve detail and specify colours.
* **An exhibition of works** by Bob and Roberta Smith, plus works by students at the Hull School of Art and Design. The exhibition will inhabit both the Brodrick gallery in the foyer of the building, and the large studio space in the Art School. Exhibition will run 4 August – 3 September.
* The **student works** respond to a provocation by Bob “Subject to Events” – he has been to talk to the students a few times during this academic year.
* The exhibition will include **a significant new work** made especially for this project by Bob & Roberta Smith, inspired by his recent work on the nature of protest and a particular encounter with a black rights activist in the US (see below).
* The project will also include 2 days of **workshops** entitled “Your Voice Needs You” run by Bob & Roberta Smith– 4 & 5 August at HSAD. Participation has been by invitation to Fine Art Students and 6th Form art students in Hull.
* On the final weekend of the project, Bob’s band **The Apathy Band** will perform at the Adelphi Saturday Sept 2 ,8pm, this will also be part of the Freedom Festival, see the Adelphi webpage here http://www.theadelphi.com/events/bob-roberta-smith-and-the-apathy-band/
* On Sunday Sept 3, in the afternoon (time TBC) again linked to and jointly promoted by the Freedom Festival, there will be a series of **Freedom Talks** of which this project is part. One talk will be by the black rights activist Blair Imani whose words have inspired Bob’s new work referred to above.

Bob has said about this project:

“To show this new work at Hull School of Art and Design during the City of Culture year is a huge honour.  

*This is a Freedom of Expression Centre*has been inspired by two key experiences of mine. The first experience spans the past five years as an advocate for the arts, which has taken me on a journey to try to understand clearly what art does, and explore why democratic societies generally support and defend the arts, while repressive regimes curb them.  The second experience was an interview I conducted with a Black Lives Matter activist in New York, while making a programme on protest for BBC4. The interviewee, Blair Imani, talked of her own experiences of prejudice and violence; you can see her inspiring interview in the exhibition.

Art is about supporting people and encouraging people, not opposing them or telling people what to think.  I want people to reflect on what art can do, and what latent potential there is in all of us.”

Bob and Roberta Smith (real name Patrick Brill OBE, RA) is a British contemporary artist, writer, author, musician, art education advocate and keynote speaker. He is known for his “slogan” art, is an associate professor at Sir John Cass Department of Art at London Metropolitan University and has been curator of public art projects, like Art U Need. In the 2015 general election, he stood against Michael Gove in his Surrey Heath constituency, in protest at the former education secretary’s marginalisation of the arts in schools. Bob and Roberta Smith is famous for protest art such as “Make Art Not War” and “Letter to Michael Gove” amongst others. He was curator for the 2006 Peace Camp and created the 2013 Art Party to promote contemporary art and advocacy. His works have been exhibited and are in collections in Europe and the United States. Brill co-founded The Ken Ardley Playboys. Brill hosts The Bob & Roberta Smith Radio Show called Make Your Own Damn Music on Resonance FM.

**YOUR ROLE ON THIS IS A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CENTRE**

It is important that you read *and* understand the contents of these briefing notes prior to your shift to help you perform your duties.

If there is anything that is not clear, please ensure that you clarify the position with the member of staff on recption before your volunteer shift.

KEY HULL SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN (HSAD )STAFF

Jackie Goodman

Chris Dimmack

KEY HULL 2017 STAFF

Hannah Williams Walton, Assistant Producer

Andrew Knight, Look Up Curator

Hazel Colquhoun, Look Up Curator

KEY CONTACT NUMBER

01482480970 (This number is only manned during office hours)

PARKING

Parking is as normal in Hull city centre around the site.

SHIFT MEETING POINT

You must sign in at the beginning of your shift with the HSAD Reception.

Your shift will then take place in the entrance/Brodrick gallery and also in the large studio space, where most of Bob’s works will be on show.

Please also sign out after your shift with reception.

YOUR ROLE

Your role is a Visitor Information role. Volunteers will be present in the two exhibition spaces to answer any questions that members of the public may have about the project and to be a friendly Hull 2017 presence. Volunteers in the entrance gallery will also be directing, and often escorting, visitors to the studio gallery. This involves two short flights of stairs, or there is a level access route which goes outside the building and back in again. You will be briefed on these routes by HSAD staff at the beginning of your shift.

There will be interpretation panels for *This is a Freedom of Expression Centre* next to the exhibition, but please also familiarise yourself with the information in this document. There will also be leaflets about the project which visitors can pick up at the entrance and in the studio space, and you can have some to give out if you would like to carry a few in your backpack

ON SHIFT

Please make sure you are in your volunteer uniform. There are public toilets in the entrance gallery of the School of Art.

If you ask at reception they have water coolers in the space and should be able to make you a tea or coffee while you are on shift.

SAFETY WHILE ON SHIFT

Please keep with or in sight of at least one other volunteer or a member of staff at Hull School of Art and Design. There are reception personnel in the HSAD at all times.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE DAMAGING ARTWORK WHILE I AM VOLUNTEERING?

Please make sure you do not put yourself in a dangerous situation. Please report any damage or dangerous behaviour to a member of the HSAD staff.

AFTER SHIFT

You must sign out at the reception office after your shift end time. Please let the reception office know if you have any feedback from your shift and they will pass this on.

HEALTH & SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

Please note this important extract from our Health and Safety Policy, bearing in mind that we expect you to act in the manner of a Hull 2017 employee whilst volunteering at the event:

*“All employees have a legal duty to take care of their own health and safety and the safety of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions, and to co-operate with Hull 2017 to enable it to carry out its responsibilities*

*They must not interfere or misuse anything provided to ensure people’s health & safety.*

*They also have a responsibility to report hazards and unsafe practices of which they become aware to their supervisor.*

*The employee should take all reasonable steps to make the situation safe (without putting themselves at risk) until it can be dealt with.*

*It is a responsibility of all Hull 2017 employees to comply with the Health, Safety and Welfare Policy and associated arrangements, and to co-operate with Hull 2017 on its implementation.*

*They must ensure that they are fully aware of their own health & safety responsibilities, these will be detailed in this document.*  *Employees are reminded that failure to comply with health and safety requirements could also lead to disciplinary action.”*

As a Volunteer, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are not undertaking any activity for which you have not been appropriately trained or for which you could be defined in statutory terms as not 'competent'.

If you are in any doubt regarding any activity you are being asked to undertake, it is your duty and responsibility to ask the advice of the key contacts above.

GENERAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Assisting individuals who may require FIRST AID:

Please contact HSAD reception.

If you witness a serious incident please report this to HSAD reception..

If you feel you are in immediate danger call 999.

If a member of the public is behaving in a threatening manner please leave the area and inform HSAD reception and Hull 2017 volunteers if possible and move somewhere you feel safe

If you have a SAFEGUARDING concern, involving a vulnerable adult please inform HSAD reception. In all cases a Safeguarding Report form should be completed by the witness.

YOUR ATTITUDE

Your attitude will have a major influence on the success of the event. It is important that you always try to be HELPFUL and COURTEOUS and to SMILE and be FRIENDLY when you are dealing with the public. This is particularly relevant if you must deal with complaints.

Be careful not to provoke an incident by your attitude. People must be treated with respect at all times. Do not touch members of the public. Try to avoid confrontations. Remember it is usually right to walk away from a situation if you feel it is becoming confrontational. If in any doubt walk away and report it to Princes Quay security who will pass this on to a member of Hull 2017 staff. This is NOT a sign of failure on your part, but an indication of good judgement.

FAQS

*Where are the nearest public toilets?*

HSAD reception has public toilets

*What other Look Up Projects are on:*

The City Speaks by Michael Pinsky and the Train Track and the Basket will both be up and running. From early August, there will also be 2 new Look Up projects, Tania Kovats at C4DI, and *Elephant in the Room* by Claire Morgan at Princes Quay Shopping Centre.