

## **Larkin Exhibition**

Thursday 27 October 2016

Present: SW, CS, GC, PP

Apologies: MLS, HWW

Notes: CS

## **NOTES**

### **Curator**

Proposed curator Anna Farthing joined the group prior to meeting for a tour of the exhibition space at Brynmore Jones Gallery in the University, a tour of the Larkin archive at HHC and a meeting to discuss viability as candidate and proposed approach to exhibition. MLS joined us for the tour at University. MLS noted University plans around a Larkin reflections programme inviting poets to respond to Larkin's work.

All members agreed she was an excellent candidate to move forward with her as Curatorial Director and were particularly impressed with her focus on audience engagement, programming activity around the exhibition and her response to the materials available and the potential of the exhibition itself.

SW noted that he would like to agree on a re-profiled budget before appointment in order to confirm budget viability.

All members agreed H2017 should continue to hold the budget for the project and lead production of the exhibition under Anna's direction.

**Action: CS to re-profile budget for agreement before proceeding with appointment**

### **Marketing Copy and Image**

CS re-iterated that Hull 2017 brochure for season 3 and 4 is due to come out in February which means we will need copy about the exhibition by end of November.

SW provided some images for consideration during marketing planning meetings going forward.

**Action: All to continue suggesting potential titles, images and copy for the exhibition**

### **Mar/Comms**

CS re-iterated the need to deliver a joint comms plan around Larkin between PLS and Hull 2017. It was also noted that University should be engaged in this comms process around plans they are developing.



Action: CS and PP to identify future announcements in advance and define roles and process for announcements - joint or independent of each other.

Action: CS to follow up with MLS on comms planning.

## Exhibition and Title

Dates:

24<sup>th</sup> June - Get in

1<sup>st</sup> July - Open

5<sup>th</sup> July - Grayson Perry PLS Distinguished Lecture at Middleton Hall

1 October - Close

The main exhibition space was noted as being quite small considering the ambition for the project. Discussions developed about using both outside and other internal space within the university.

Further definition of what was available in-kind from University for exhibition needed to be made. For eg. No additional cases for exhibition items were available and would require investment from the exhibition budget.

Programming of activity like the Grayson Perry lecture throughout the rest of the exhibition dates was considered a valuable addition to the exhibition itself.

GC, SW and PP suggested various potential titles to be agreed with or added to by the appointed curator: Self's The Man; What Will Survive of Us is Love; What Are Days For?; A Sense of Life; New Eyes Each Year; Larkinland (was originally a play about him); The Importance of Elsewhere.

The title of Grayson's lecture was also yet to be agreed.

Action: Everyone to continue with title suggestions

Action: CS to follow up with MLS about in-kind contribution from University.

## Grayson Perry Lecture

The Larkin society has confirmed that Grayson Perry will deliver the annual Larkin lecture at Middleton Hall on 5th July 2017.

A save the date has been sent to all members of the Larkin society - 250 members. Middleton Hall has capacity for 400.



**Action: CS and PP/GC to agree approach to audience access for remaining seats and promotion of those before releasing tickets.**

### **Westminster Abbey Service**

GC updated that the Poet's Corner Service for Larkin will take place at Westminster Abbey on 2<sup>nd</sup> December (TBC). Rosie Millard of Hull 2017 was invited. It is hosted by the Abbey. Other invited guests included Grayson Perry, Blake Morrison, Tom Courtney.

It was clear that this wasn't a platform for launching anything exhibition related but it was agreed that should there be a reception, or moment for speeches, that an agreed line to take about Larkin and Hull 2017 should be defined in advance, if only as a brief for Rosie and any other invited attendees associated with the exhibition. It may also be an opportunity to discuss with some other high-profile artists an opportunity for them to engage with the exhibition.

**Action: GC/PP to connect Cian with Abbey organisers to clarify on activity and comms moments.**

### **Artist Commissions**

The aspiration remains, subject to budget, to include artistic responses to Larkin's work.

### **Exhibition Design**

Designer to be decided by Curatorial Director in agreement with members.

### **BBC**

**Action: Simon to contact TV Producer Christine Hammill, making the documentary to get an update.**

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

