**20/01/17 Paper for discussion**

**Talks programme to accompany Bob & Roberta Smith at Hull College of Art & Design (HSAD)**

Look Up is a curated programme of temporary artworks created for the public places and spaces of central Hull as part of the 2017 City of Culture artistic programme.

As a key commission within Look Up designed to be presented as part of Hull 2017’s Freedom Season, the artist Bob & Roberta Smith has been commissioned to create a work based on the concept of establishing a “Centre for Freedom of Expression” at Hull School of Art and Design, during the summer recess 2017.

The Centre for Freedom of Expression work is envisaged to comprise a number of elements:

* A sign, designed by the artist, to be installed on the exterior of the building during July and August 2017 proclaiming the “Centre for Freedom of Expression”
* The exhibition of a new painting by the artist on the issue of Freedom of Expression (ownership to be retained by the artist)
* An exhibition of existing works by the artist which are linked to Freedom of Expression
* A “summer school” run by the artist over 1 or 2 days, on the theme of Freedom of Expression
* An exhibition of works by students at HSAD which have been developed during the 2016/2017 academic year on the subject of Freedom of Expression and the arts
* 2 gigs by the Apathy Band, acoustic set at HSAD and amplified at Kardomah
* A series of talks and events (e.g. discussion/workshops), to be developed with HSAD and partners such as WISE (Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation)

**Talks programme to accompany Centre for Freedom of Expression**

The talks programme underpinning the Centre for Freedom of Expression will be a self-contained festival of ideas, a creative space that brings audience together with artists, academics, activists, and leading thinkers to produce an innovative, engaging and participatory programme of talks, debates and conversation in an effort explore ideas around freedom (or lack of) and what the terms actually means in a global context at the end of summer 2017.

The programme will be inspired by the legacy of Wilberforce but responsive to contemporary global issues.

Freedoms are not universal, interpretations of freedom vary across the world and those we enjoy have been hard won and subject to change. The very concept of freedom enjoyed within established liberal democracies are constantly being redefined in response to perceived local or global threats or to face the demands of the interconnected, digital world, these talks will explore this and more.

The programme will feature a range of invited guest speakers and presented through a series of different events encompassing panels, dinners, fireside chats, interviews, debates and keynote addresses.

The events will take place in the week preceding Freedom Festival, both heralding the Festival and acting as climax to the summer long installation at HSAD.

The programme of speakers and range of topics will be decided through a steering group comprising of representatives from

* University of Hull – City of Culture Programme Group –

Marrianne Lewsley-Stier, James Zborowski

* University if Hull – WISE

John Oldfield

* Freedom Festival

Lindsey Stockley, Mikey Martins

* Hull City Council

Paul Holloway

* Hull 2017 Programme

Sam Hunt

* Hull 2017 Look Up curators

Hazel Colhoun

* Hull School of Art and Design

Jackie Goodman (TBC)

The programme will be presented in partnership with the Freedom Festival and will explore many of the themes within the festival’s artistic programme and actively involving the festival’s artistic partners.

**Themes may include**

**Identity and freedom of expression** – rooted in two exhibitions staged as part of Freedom Festival

* The Dandy Lion Project <http://2016.bpb.org.uk/event/the-dandy-lion-project/>
* Freedom and fashion <https://www.1418now.org.uk/commissions/fashion-freedom/>

Potential links from two companies developing work for Freedom Festival 2017 that is centred around a particular polemic

* <http://atsa.qc.ca/en/le-temps-d-une-soupe-on-tour>
* <http://kaleider.com/projects/the-money/>

**Freedoms in areas of conflict and post conflict**

* <https://inplaceofwar.net/>

**Modern slavery**

* <http://www2.hull.ac.uk/fass/wise.aspx>

other potential subject areas

* **The philosophy of freedom**
* **Freedoms in the digital age**
* **The illusion of freewill**
* **LBTQ rights and sexual freedom**
* **Press freedoms and freedom of speech**

**Potential speakers / contributors**

Blair Imani (in conversation with Bob and Roberta Smith) , David Nutt, Adam Curtis, Steve McQueen, Chelsea Manning Glenn Greenwald, Kofi Annan

Alan Moore, Edward Snowden, AC Grayling, Laurie Penny,

**Timeline**

3rd Feb – Steering Group Meet – decisions made on areas of discussion and contributor long list.

w/c 6th Feb – invites for contributors sent out

6th March – Steering group meet – review invite responses, finalise programme – contracting

3rd April – Steering group - confirmed programme, develop marcomms plan

w/c 24th April announce programme.

**Total budget 35,000**