



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 2 February 2017

NEW CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY OPENS FOR HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017

A brand new contemporary art space, **Humber Street Gallery**, opens in Hull on **3 February 2017**. Located in the Fruit Market cultural quarter, it is being opened as part of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 programme. The three storey gallery in a former fruit and vegetable warehouse will present a range of contemporary visual art, design, film, photography and craft throughout 2017, with a café and rooftop bar for visitors.

The opening season will feature two exhibitions running from 3 February - 22 March: the first major show to explore the work and legacy of **COUM Transmissions**, which was founded in Hull by artists **Genesis P-Orridge** and **Cosey Fanni Tutti**, a subversive collective that took the art world by storm in the late 1960s, ahead of their later involvement in the musical collective **Throbbing Gristle**.

Featuring materials drawn from their personal archives, and curated by Hull-born Cosey Fanni Tutti herself, this first retrospective will also feature musical performances, programmed by respected music website **The Quietus**.

The second exhibition, **Power in Woman**, features three sculptures by **Sarah Lucas**, commissioned by the British Council for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, shown in Hull with the support of the Art Fund.

Humber Street Gallery helps cement Hull's reputation as a significant cultural destination, for visual arts in particular. It follows national acclaim for the Ferens Art Gallery, which recently reopened following its £5.2m refurbishment by Hull City Council, and the Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull, which has also recently been refurbished with a £28-million investment and is now able to bring major and diverse exhibitions to the city.

Other visual arts attractions currently taking place in the city include: Ferens Art Gallery, with works from the its permanent collection, the restored Lorenzetti masterpiece *Christ between Saints Paul and Peter* and *Francis Bacon: Nervous System; Lines of Thought, Drawing from Michelangelo to now* at Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull; *Salon des Refusés* - a joint show from KAG Studio and Associate Members at Kingston Art Gallery in Humber Street; *Blade* by artist Nayan Kulkarni, the first work to be installed in the public realm as part of the Hull 2017 *Look Up* public art programme. This weekend also sees the opening of an exhibition by artist Tanya Raabe-Webber at Artlink in Princes Avenue, as part of their year-long diversity and disability arts programme called *Square Peg*.

Martin Green, CEO and Director Hull 2017 said: "We are really excited to be opening Humber Street Gallery, which will be an amazing cultural asset for the city. It helps consolidate the Fruit Market's status as a cultural quarter and adds to Hull's already strong visual arts offer, which has been led by the wonderful Ferens Art Gallery and Brynmor Jones Library, as well as the smaller galleries and collectives to be found around the city."

www.hull2017.co.uk @2017Hull #Hull2017

-ENDS-

For press information, please contact:

Ben McKnight at Hull 2017, ben.mcknight@hull2017.co.uk / 07718 100793

or

Jane Quinn/Dennis Chang, Bolton & Quinn +44 (0) 20 7221 5000

jq@boltonquinn.com or dennis@boltonquinn.com

High resolution press images are available from: <http://bit.ly/2dbwt6C>

Humber Street Gallery

64 Humber Street

Hull HU1 1TU

Gallery opening: 10am-8pm Monday to Sunday

Café and bar: 10am-11pm Monday to Sunday

Entry: FREE

www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk

Twitter @humberstgallery /Facebook, Instagram: humberstreetgallery

NOTES TO EDITORS

Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 60 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, lottery distributors, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** - Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** -Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk Follow us on **Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture**

Humber Street Gallery and Fruit Market

The creation of the Humber Street Gallery is the latest investment as part of the exciting transformation of Hull's Fruit Market.

Hull City Council's initial investment of over £4m capital funds to kick-start the redevelopment of the area included the complete transformation of the internal structure of each unit and installation of new bespoke facades on a number of residential and commercial units, in-keeping with the unique historic character of the area. Each unit was reinforced with stronger internal roofs and walls, conservation windows, cladding and drainage.

A wider £80m rejuvenation of the Fruit Market is now being driven forward by the Fruit Market LLP, a joint venture involving regeneration company Wykeland Group, residential developer Beal Homes and Hull City Council. Wykeland Beal's vision for the Fruit Market is for it to be "a unique, vibrant and cultural quarter where people live, work and play", with business, arts, culture, retail and leisure uses, together with more than 100 new, mews-style homes, in and among the waterside district's warehouses and cobbled streets.

The Fruit Market LLP has invested £250,000 to repair, refurbish and upgrade the three-storey building housing the gallery, with a café on the ground floor. The works have included a new glazed frontage behind renovated and repainted timber doors, a new lift, new toilets and decked roof terrace, as well as connections to services. The gallery building was previously a fruit and veg warehouse, with trade counter on the ground floor and fruit ripening room on the first floor. It has been disused for at least two years.

Opening of the gallery comes just weeks after the completion of public realm works on Humber Street, part of Hull City Council's £26m programme to renew key public spaces for 2017 and beyond.

Recent developments in the Fruit Market build on a wave of investment, including Wykeland's £15m @TheDock development, which features the Centre for Digital Innovation (C4DI) tech hub, a 350-seat amphitheatre, Stage @TheDock.

In recent years the Fruit Market's resurgence has attracted a host of new businesses and the area is now home to more than 70 companies employing hundreds of people. Recent openings in the Fruit Market have included high-quality independent restaurants Tapasya @Marina, Butler Whites and Ambiente Tapas.

Amongst the visual arts highlights for 2017:

The **Ferens Art Gallery** re-opened in January 2017 with the complete redisplay of the gallery's outstanding permanent collection, which includes works by **Frans Hals, Canaletto, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth** and **Mark Wallinger**. A special highlight of the new display is an outstanding new acquisition, Pietro Lorenzetti's *Christ Between Saints Paul and Peter* (c.1320), which is revealed for the first time following four years of extensive conservation and research at the National Gallery, London. The painting is the only fully autographed work by Lorenzetti in a UK collection and was saved for the nation after being acquired by the Ferens Endowment Fund, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Art Fund. Throughout the year, the collection at the Ferens is being augmented by a number of rare and exceptional loans including two masterpieces: Manet's study for *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe* from **The Courtauld Gallery** and Rembrandt's *The Shipbuilder and his Wife* from the **Royal Collection**, both paintings agreed as part of longer-term national partnerships.

Also at the Ferens will be an exhibition of works by the internationally acclaimed sculptor, **Ron Mueck** as part of the ARTIST ROOMS On Tour programme (22 April -13 August), and the first showing of **Spencer Tunick's** photographs from his 2016 Sea of Hull commission featuring thousands of nudes with the city as a backdrop. The **Open Exhibition**, founded in 1967, which showcases the creativity of local artists, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 2017. Judges of this special edition include **Dr Gabriel Finaldi**, Director, London's National Gallery, Hull-born actress, **Maureen Lipman** and the leading sculptor **David Mach** (20 January - 12 March). The gallery is also present a special display including five of **Francis Bacon's 'Screaming Popes'** (21 January - 1 May).

In association with Tate, the world-renowned **Turner Prize 2017** will be presented in Hull at the Ferens, the fifth location outside London to host Europe's most prestigious contemporary art prize since it was established in 1984.

Look Up is a year-long programme of newly commissioned works by artists made specifically for Hull's public spaces, designed to challenge people's perceptions of the city. *Look up* is created in partnership with a range of organisations, including The Deep, GF Smith and the RIBA. Commissioned artists include **Nayan Kulkarni**, whose *Blade* can be seen in Queen Victoria Square, and Michael Pinsky, whose installation *The City Speaks* will see words spoken by members of the public translated into text and relayed on the west tower supporting Tidal Surge Barrie, transforming it into an interactive artwork. Other artists creating work for *Look Up*, which runs from 1 January - 31 December, include **Claire Barber, Bob and Roberta Smith, Sarah Barber, Claire Morgan** and **Tania Kovats**.

Nayan Kulkarni has also been commissioned by Hull City Council to create a series of light installations across the city centre in 2017. The council has also commissioned *The City Speaks*, a series of installations by artist **Michael Pinsky**, award-winning architects **Tonkin Liu** and Hull poet **Shane Rhodes**.

The **Brynmor Jones Library** at the University of Hull is presenting a series of exhibitions. It is currently hosting a British Museum Partnership Tour, *Lines of thought: Drawing from Michelangelo to now* will feature works from some of the all-time greatest artists from Dürer to Degas, Michelangelo to Matisse and Rembrandt to Riley. Arguably the greatest exhibition of its kind ever presented in the city, the UK tour is generously supported by the **Bridget Riley Art Foundation** (3 January - 28 February).