



PRESS RELEASE

Monday 30 January 2017

Dead Bod to return to public display when Humber Street Gallery opens

This Friday (3 February 2017), the latest addition to Hull's visual arts scene will open to the public for the first time. **Humber Street Gallery** is a new contemporary art space being opened as part of the Hull UK City of Culture programme. Located in Hull's Fruit Market cultural quarter, 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.

Opening with two exhibitions focused on the work of the radical arts collective **COUM Transmissions**, who came to prominence in Hull in the late 1960s, and internationally renowned British artist **Sarah Lucas**, Humber Street Gallery helps cement Hull's status 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, which has also been refurbished by the University of Hull, enabling it to bring major exhibitions to the city.

In addition to the gallery art across its three floors, Humber Street Gallery will also house a café and a rooftop bar offering views across the city. The café is due to open alongside the gallery this Friday at 10am. It will be open daily.

A key feature in the café will be the installation of **Dead Bod**, the much-loved graffiti featuring a dead bird, which was painted on the side of a corrugated iron shed at Alexandra Dock in the 1960s by Captain Len 'Pongo' Rood and Chief Engineer Gordon Mason. **Dead Bod** became a local landmark, symbolising Hull's fishing heritage, and a campaign was launched to save it after Hull 2017 Major Partner Associated British Ports (ABP) removed the sheds as part of the development of the site for Siemens, also a Major Partner.

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. Not only that, Humber Street Gallery, offers a café and rooftop bar, helping to make it even more of a destination for locals and visitors alike.

"We're grateful to our partners on the project, Wykeland Beal and Hull City Council, who have enabled this great contemporary art space to open, and delighted that the Rood family, alongside the team at ABP have allowed us to install **Dead Bod** in the café. It's a much-loved symbol for Hull, which will have pride of place in the café, so that the public can see it once more."

Jenny Wilson Rood, Len's daughter, said: "I am so happy to finally be able to share **Dead Bod** with the general public and I have so many people to thank for enabling my dad's memory to live on as part of Hull's maritime history. It was George Norris' photograph of **Dead Bod** that really started this rollercoaster ride along with Andrae Sutherland's

campaign to save the mural. Thank you to ABP for being supportive and for agreeing to preserve Dead Bod and thank you to all of the local media and members of the public who have really backed our campaign. In addition, I have to thank Tom Jessop and my sons Adam and Luke for being there with me every step of the way. It's been an emotional journey and I hope that people will be able to enjoy Dead Bod for many years to come."

Simon Brett, ABP Head of Projects for the Humber said: "We have taken the utmost care with Dead Bod as we know how much he means to the artists family and now to the public. We removed, renovated and preserved him until we could find a place for him and the gallery seems a very fitting prelude location for the next 12 months before he is put back by the river he has been acting as guardian to for the past 50 years."

Humber Street Gallery, which opens at 10am on Friday, is a pop-up housed in a former fruit and vegetable warehouse. Its creation is the latest stage in the transformation of Hull's Fruit Market. This is being driven forward by the Fruit Market LLP, a joint venture of Wykeland Limited, a Major Partner of Hull 2017, Beal Homes and Hull City Council. The Fruit Market LLP has invested £250,000 in the refurbishment of the building, which has been disused for at least two years. 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.

Councillor Daren Hale, Deputy Leader of Hull City Council and Chair of the Fruit Market LLP, said: "The transformation of the Fruit Market is already great success story for the city and it's wonderful to see another of its historic buildings being brought back into use. The Council's initial investment in the area has been a catalyst for change and the investment now being made by our joint venture partners is really beginning to make a difference."

Dominic Gibbons, Managing Director of Wykeland Group, said: "We're delighted to have brought another of Humber Street's distinctive properties back to life and to have worked with the City of Culture team to create a great new cultural and artistic asset for Hull. The Humber Street Gallery will add to the ever-growing vibrancy of the Fruit Market and is another piece of the regeneration jigsaw being put in place."

The opening exhibition at Humber Street Gallery is a six-week long show focusing on *COUM Transmissions*, curated by Cosey Fanni Tutti and Cabinet, London. It includes material drawn from the archives of Cosey Fanni Tutti and Genesis P-Orridge (held by Tate Britain) alongside new filmed interviews with original COUM members. This, the first major retrospective of COUM Transmissions, traces a line from the group's conception in 1969 to their termination at the *Prostitution* retrospective held at the ICA in October 1976, exploring a legacy that endures today.

Complementing the opening show is *Power in Women*, featuring three of British artist Sarah Lucas' ten *Muses*, which were originally shown as part of the acclaimed commission *Scream Daddio* by the British Council for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2015. The Sarah Lucas exhibit, on loan from Sadie Coles HQ, has been made possible with Art Fund support.

Other visual arts attractions currently taking place in Hull 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; *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.

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.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

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

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Hull City Council - Host City

In 2013, Hull City Council led the bid for UK City of Culture status in collaboration with the city's cultural, business, community organisations and artists and with overwhelming public support. The decision to bid came as part of the City Plan set out by Hull's City Leadership Board in 2013 to transform the city over ten years, creating 7,500 jobs. One of the key ambitions of the City Plan is to harness the power of culture and the arts to make Hull a world-class visitor destination, with hosting UK City of Culture 2017 being a key milestone on the journey.

20 November 2013, the day Hull achieved UK City of Culture status, was widely hailed as ‘the day the city changed forever’. Following the announcement, Hull City Council established an independent company to deliver the 2017 cultural programme, providing an initial investment of £4m and appointing Rosie Millard as Chair and Martin Green as CEO and Director. The council also accelerated the delivery of a £100m cultural capital programme that is now transforming the city and its cultural venues.

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.