

## PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 5 April 2017

### International artists explore the changing boundaries between land and sea in new exhibition for Hull 2017

The changing boundaries between land and sea and the influence of water as a division between countries, as well as a route that connects them, is explored in a thought-provoking new exhibition presented at Humber Street Gallery as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

*Somewhere Becoming Sea*, which opens on 5 April and runs until 17 June, features recently produced work by artists from different parts of the North Sea region.

Encompassing works in many media, including moving-image, photography, audio, objects and text, *Somewhere Becoming Sea* presents different narratives and responses to the complex relationship between humanity, land and water, inspired by Hull's prominence as a gateway to the North Sea and beyond.

The exhibition draws out affinities in history, culture, topography and language, and points to a shared interest in harnessing, moderating, or better appreciating the vital presence of the sea in our future ecology and economy.

Curated by Steven Bode and supported by Film and Video Umbrella, artists include award-winning poet and author **Lavinia Greenlaw**; internationally renowned Danish artist **Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen**; British artist **Simon Faithfull**, whose work seeks to explore the world as a sculptural object; and Swedish artist **Cecilia Stenbom**, whose work explores human relationships and notions of identity.

Other artists contributing to *Somewhere Becoming Sea* include **Duncan Pickstock**; London based award-winning sound designer and composer **Mikkel H. Eriksen**; **Ruth Maclennan**; **Isabella Martin**; **Esther Johnson**, who recently collaborated with St Etienne's Bob Stanley and Pete Wiggs to create *Abstractions of Holderness* for the Hull 2017 Basil Kirchin celebration; Icelandic artist **Gunnar Jónsson**; Norwegian artist **Nina Sverdvik**; British artist and photographer **Guy Moreton**; Belgian artist **Christine Clinckx**; artist and poet **Alec Finlay**; Finnish-English artist, composer and performer **Hanna Tuulikki** and vocalist **Lucy Duncombe**.

Curator Steven Bode comments: "Somewhere Becoming Sea examines the fluctuating boundaries between land and sea, at a time when a warming global climate threatens sea-level rises and equally far-reaching economic forces are already encroaching on traditional patterns of maritime industry and trade. Highlighting Hull's longstanding place as a gateway to the North Sea and destinations beyond, this exhibition considers how the city

has been at the sharp end of some of these changes, but is also at the forefront of a greater understanding of them."

Martin Green, Director Hull 2017, says: "Somewhere Becoming Sea reflects our theme for this season, Roots and Routes, with artists inspired by Hull's position on the water, which has played a pivotal role in the life of the city. Each artist is reflecting on the fundamental role that water has in our lives. From the personal to the political to the environmental, it is a force that we seek to control, but which ultimately cannot be wholly tamed. We are delighted to welcome this latest show to Humber Street Gallery, which is one of several events taking place over the next few weeks around the city that artists are interpreting this city's links to water in very different ways."

As well as being supported by Film and Video Umbrella, some works in the exhibition appear with additional thanks to the Embassy of Sweden in London, the Embassy of Iceland in London and the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Event: ***Somewhere Becoming Sea***

Date: **Wednesday 5 April - Saturday 17 June 2017**

Time: **10am-6pm daily**

Venue: **Humber Street Gallery, 64 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU**

Entry: **FREE**

Information: [www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk/somewhere-becoming-sea](http://www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk/somewhere-becoming-sea)

### **Featured works**

Simon Faithfull, *Going Nowhere 1.5*, video (UK, 2016).

Gunnar Jónsson, *Hringsol 4*, video (Iceland, 2012)

Ruth Maclennan, *From Time to Time at Sea*, video (UK, 2016)

Alec Finlay, tidal names, fabricated signs (UK, 2016/17)

Alec Finlay with Hanna Tuulikki and Lucy Duncombe, *tidesongs*, audio, wall-based texts, book, and other objects (UK, 2016/17)

Esther Johnson, *Hinterland*, video (UK, 2002)

Esther Johnson, *Time and Tide*, video (UK, 2017)

Lavinia Greenlaw, *The Sea is an Edge and an Ending*, video (UK, 2016)

Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen (in collaboration with Duncan Pickstock and Mikkel H. Eriksen), *Quicksand*, video (Denmark, 2017)

Isabella Martin, *North Sea Semaphore*, video (UK, 2017)

Cecilia Stenbom, *Parallel*, video (UK/Sweden 2016)

Nina Sverdvik, *My Father's Car*, video (UK/Norway, 2008)

Nina Sverdvik, *Stillstand*, video (UK/Norway, 2017)

Christine Clinckx, *The Walk\_\_Ostend*, Belgium, 1946, photographic prints (Belgium, 2014)

Guy Moreton, *Spurn Point*, photographic print (UK, 2017)

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### ALSO ON SHOW AT HUMBER STREET GALLERY

## **Lucy + Jorge Orta: *Raft of the Medusa***

*Raft of the Medusa* takes its historical reference point from the romantic depiction of the shipwreck *Le Radeau de la Méduse* by Théodore Géricault (1819-1819, Musée du Louvre, Paris). The make-shift raft constructed by the crew of the *Medusa* from wood salvaged from their sinking vessel recounts more than the treacherous voyage of the doomed sailors on board, it reminds us of the fateful journeys of slaves and migrants throughout history.

Even more so today, we all play witness to the perilous journeys of the thousands of refugees navigating the oceans in search of a safe haven. A raft, the symbol of man's fragility, helplessness and hope.

*Raft of the Medusa* is floating on an ocean of life buoys, debris from the Japanese Tsunami that has been aimlessly drifting on sea currents ever since. Time has eroded their colour and marine life has reclaimed them, until they were washed onto the shores of Alaska four years later. This multi-sensory installation includes the pungent smell of decaying rubber, seaweed, wooden planks and oil drums.

Lucy Orta comments: "Exhibiting the 'Raft of the Medusa' in Hull is incredibly timely, the city's history unfolds through its relationship to the sea and at this moment, thanks to the dynamic cultural transformation, there is a vibrant sense of adventure that the city is embarking on a new journey. We learn about the fateful voyage of the Raft of the Medusa through the painting by Gericault (1818-19), and our installation and forthcoming performance remind us of lives that are lost at sea, but also those that are saved, it brings a new perspective and conveys a sense of hope."

Event: **Lucy + Jorge Orta: *Raft of the Medusa***

Date: **Wednesday 5 April - Saturday 17 June 2017**

Time: **10am-6pm daily**

Venue: **Humber Street Gallery, 64 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU**

Entry: **FREE**

Information: [www.hull2017.co.uk/whatson/events/the-raft-of-medusa](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/whatson/events/the-raft-of-medusa)

FOR IMAGES AND TO VISIT, PLEASE EMAIL: [MEDIA@HULL2017.CO.UK](mailto:MEDIA@HULL2017.CO.UK)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Humber Street Gallery**

Humber Street Gallery opened in January as a new contemporary art space for Hull. Located in the Fruit Market cultural quarter, the three-storey gallery in a former fruit and vegetable warehouse is presenting a range of contemporary visual art, design, film, photography and craft throughout 2017, with a café for visitors, plus a rooftop bar, which is due to open later this year.

### **Humber Street Gallery**

**64 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU**

Gallery opening: 10am-6pm Monday to Sunday  
Café and bar: 10am-11pm Monday to Sunday

Entry: FREE

[www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk](http://www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk) @Twitter @humberstgallery /Facebook, Instagram:  
humberstreetgallery

### **Hull UK City of Culture 2017**

Hull 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.

For information go to [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture

### **Film and Video Umbrella**

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. [www.fvu.co.uk](http://www.fvu.co.uk)