



## PRESS RELEASE

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# BLEACHED by Tania Kovats

New sculpture, new drawings and an exhibition of linked works relating to ocean life and environment

29 July to 17 September 2017

C4DI @TheDock, 31-38 Queen Street, and The Deep, Tower St, Hull

FREE

*BLEACHED* is a new sculpture created by artist Tania Kovats as her response to both the beauty of coral and its fragile position in the world's ecosystem.

The new work is the second commission in a collaboration between The Deep and Hull 2017 as part of *Look Up*, a series of temporary artworks being installed throughout Hull's City of Culture year.

Tania Kovats first visited The Deep, one of the UK's most spectacular aquariums, in spring 2016 and was captivated by their coral exhibit, describing it as an '*underwater world of intensely rich colour and endlessly fascinating forms*,' a '*landscape of dreams*'.

As Tania began developing her ideas for this work, a major global coral bleaching event took place, unprecedented in its scale, with 93% of the Great Barrier Reef thought to be affected. Coral bleaching takes place as a result of rising sea temperatures - when the sea is too warm, corals expel the zooxanthellae algae that give them their brilliant colours leaving them ghostly bone white and at risk. The corals are not dead and can grow back given the correct conditions, but they are under extreme stress and very vulnerable.

*BLEACHED* recycles specially fabricated coral from The Deep, salvaged from a previous display, which was decommissioned in 2016. Tania's work creates a slice through a "bleached" coral reef, a starkly beautiful representation of a potentially devastating environmental event.

*BLEACHED* is accompanied by other works by Tania, linked to themes of the ocean life and environment. At the c4di exhibition space there are new drawings on canvas, *Sea Mark*, and existing sculptures of ocean bowls, *Indian*, *Pacific* and *Atlantic*. Showing in public areas at The Deep are the barnacle sculpture *Colony* made in response to her residency in the Galapagos Islands and a series of evaporation ink drawings.

Tania Kovats' practice encompasses drawing, sculpture, installation and commissions for the public realm. Her work is often concerned with the natural environment. She has exhibited extensively in the UK and abroad, has been artist in residence and research

fellow at numerous scientific and academic institutions around the world, and in 2015 was nominated for the Max Mara Art Prize for Women. Drawing is a key part of her practice and she is currently Course Director for MA Drawing at Wimbledon College of Art, London. Tania Kovats is represented by the Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London.

*Kovats said, 'All my work is a response to our relationship with water. BLEACHED is my sculptural response to a clear indicator of how climate change and our lack of respect for our planet is impacting directly on the health of our oceans. We ignore these signs at our peril. I'm not sure any artist can directly change the world but artists are important witnesses that can choose to point at things that need to be seen more clearly.'*

Sam Hunt, Executive Producer at Hull 2017, said: 'Tania Kovat's new work for our Look Up programme expresses the anxiety there is about the environment and the impact of climate change. Perhaps because of Hull's relationship to the sea, it is a theme that many artists have been concerned with this year. What it shows is how a thing of beauty can also be a warning, a trigger to get us thinking, talking, maybe even taking action.'

Katy Duke, CEO from The Deep: 'This is a stark representation of how our world's reefs are responding to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification. The health of our oceans is intrinsically linked to the health of every living thing on the planet. Marine conservation is something that is often talked about, but few comprehend the impacts their daily choices have on the oceans. It's fantastic to see such an important conservation message delivered in such a novel and engaging way.'

**Look Up** is a year-long programme of major public art commissioned by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and made for the Hull's public spaces and places, co-curated by Andrew Knight and Hazel Colquhoun. Each installation reflects Hull's history, its present or future, and is designed to catch passers-by by surprise interrupting the public realm with ideas that amuse, confront or challenge residents and visitors alike from Nayan Kukarni's *Blade* in January to Michael Pinsky's *The City Speaks*, which continues to animate Hull's Tidal Surge Barrier.

*BLEACHED* by Tania Kovats is one of two works in Hull 2017's third season, Freedom, focusing on the city's relationship with the sea. The other installation, *The Elephant in the Room* by Claire Morgan, will be unveiled shortly. A third work taking place during the season is an exploration of protest and freedom of expression by Bob and Roberta Smith.

**ENDS**

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IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

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## TANIA KOVATS

Tania Kovats was born in 1966 in London, England. She graduated from Newcastle Polytechnic with a BA in 1988, and earned an MA from the Royal College of Art, London in 1990. She won the Barclays Young Artist Award at the Serpentine Gallery, London in 1991, with other nominated artists including Peter Doig and Douglas Gordon.

Kovats has shown extensively in the UK and abroad, with solo shows including those at The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London; Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield; New Art Centre, Salisbury; Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno; Asprey Jacques, London and Newlyn Art Gallery, Cornwall. Group shows include those at BALTIC, Gateshead; Compton Verney, Warwickshire; Camden Arts Centre, London; Hayward Gallery, London; Tate Liverpool; V&A, London; Museum Of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Kettle's Yard, Cambridge; Kunstraum Innsbruck and ICA, London, amongst many others. Her sculptures and drawings feature in numerous public and private collections including the Arts Council; The British Council; Government Art Collection; and the V&A.

The artist has received numerous commissions in the public realm, including *Garden* (Public Art Development Trust, 1995); *Centre Point* (FAT, 1996); *Plinth* (Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, 1997-8); *Viewpoint* (Kielder Water and Forest Park, 1998); *Contour* (Secret Gardens for the Salisbury Festival, 1999); *MEADOW* (Bath Spa University, 2006); *Museum of the White Horse* (University of Oxford, 2007); *ROOT* (Docklands Light Railway at Shadwell Station, 2008); *TREE* (Natural History Museum, London, 2009); *BIRCH* (Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, 2010); *HOLM* (Wonders of Weston at Weston-super-Mare); *Habitat* (Islington Council, London, 2011); *Rivers* (Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh, 2012) and *One Billion Objects in Space* (University of Cambridge, 2014). She is set to produce a new site-specific commission for the University of Warwick in late 2016.

Kovats collaborated with architects Levitt Bernstein Associates on the design of the new Ikon Gallery, Birmingham in 1996-7, for which she received an RSA Art for Architecture Award. She is subsequently acknowledged as having demonstrated a pioneering approach to the possibilities of collaboration. She was a Rome Scholar in the Fine Arts at the British School at Rome in 1997-8 and won a Civic Trust Award for her outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment in 2000. In the same year, Kovats was invited to curate an exhibition at Ikon Gallery, which she called *LOST*.

Drawing - and paying attention to others' drawings - is a key part of Kovats' practice. In 2002-3, she was made the Henry Moore Fellow in Drawing at the University of the West of England, Bristol in 2004-5, where she produced *The Drawing Book - a survey of drawing: the primary means of expression* with essays by Charles Darwent, Kate Macfarlane and Katherine Stout (London: Black Dog Publishing, 2005).

In 2005, Kovats was offered a one-year Visiting Fellowship at Bath School of Art and Design, Bath Spa University. In 2006, she embarked on a two-year Visiting Fellowship at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Archaeology and Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford, out of which came the *Museum of the White Horse*. In 2008, she completed a six-month journey with her family around South America and won the competition for a permanent artwork

at London's Natural History Museum celebrating the legacy of Charles Darwin in the bicentenary year of his birth. *TREE* was permanently installed at the Natural History Museum in 2009.

In 2010, her work was the subject of a major monograph, *Tania Kovats*, by Jeremy Millar and Philip Hoare, published by Lund Humphries and the Ruskin School of Drawing.

OCEANS was her solo show at The Fruitmarket Gallery in 2014 where she presented All The Seas, a sculptural presentation of water gathered from seas around the world. The exhibition was accompanied by a new publication by the artist called *Drawing Water*. Kovats recently completed a residency in the Astronomy Department at the University of Cambridge, for which she built a site-specific commission *One Billion Objects in Space*. Kovats is currently Course Director for MA Drawing at Wimbledon College of Art, London.

In March 2015, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery held a solo exhibition of new drawings by Kovats in London. Kovats' work ~~is currently~~ was on show at the Venice Biennale 2015 in the exhibition *Vitea Vitale*. Having been awarded the Cape Farewell Lovelock Art Commission for 2015, Kovats ~~will~~ ~~have~~ had a solo exhibition of new work at the Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, UK in October 2015. In November 2015, she presented *TIDE*, a commission from the National Trust at Somerset House, London. In October 2015, it was announced that Kovats had been nominated for the Max Mara Art Prize for Women in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery.

Most recent exhibitions include *Land Sea Air* at the New Art Gallery, Walsall, *From a Distance* at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery London, and presenting a new work *All the Canals* for the opening of the Venice Biennale in 2017 made in collaboration with the Venice Curatorial School.

## LOOK UP

**Look Up** is a year-long programme of major public art commissioned by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and made for the Hull's public spaces and places, co-curated by Andrew Knight and Hazel Colquhoun.

Each installation will reflect Hull's history, present or future, each will catch passers-by by surprise interrupting the public realm with ideas that amuse, confront or challenge residents and visitors alike.

The first Look Up installation was Nayan Kulkarni's *Blade*, a 75 metre long Rotor blade that would normally be at the top of a wind turbine, which became an artwork and a spectacular interruption into the newly renovated public space in January this year. The second which runs till the end of the year is Michael Pinsky's *The City Speaks* which functions as a 21st century Speakers' Corner in which open-air public speaking takes on epic proportions as spoken words are translated to text and relayed on the west tower supporting Hull's Tidal Surge Barrier.

During seasons two and three, *Look Up* has seen commissioned works popping up in shopping centres, train stations, car parks, streets and public squares, by artists including Bob & Roberta Smith, Tania Kovats, Chris Dobrowolski and Claire Barber.

*Look Up* has been developed in partnership with a number of organisations and companies including The Deep, GF Smith, Hull School of Art & Design and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

## THE DEEP

### Notes to Editors

The Deep is the most commercially successful Millennium project in the UK

It was named Large Visitor Attraction of the Year 2014; White Rose Awards and Top UK Aquarium in 2014; Trip Advisor Travellers Choice Awards. It was also named runner up in the Visit England Inclusive Tourism award in 2017.

The Deep is home to over 3,500 fish including spectacular sharks and rays and tells the story of the world's oceans through stunning marine life, interactives and audio visual presentations.

Visitor figures to date stand at over 6.5 million, with over 426,000 in 2016/17

The Deep is a member of BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums), the professional bodies representing the best zoos and aquariums

The Deep operates as a charity. Our strapline, for conservation, not profit is the basis for the business

The building overlooks the Humber Estuary and is only a few minutes' walk from the Museums Quarter boasting 8 free museums, and the beautiful Hull Marina. Visitors wishing to venture into the town are encouraged to visit these fantastic sites.

Designed by Sir Terry Farrell and Partners as part of the regeneration of Hull, The Deep has become an internationally recognised landmark and has even featured on a Royal Mail stamp  
Follow us on social media - Find out more about the work The Deep does on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Just search for @thedeephull.

## 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**, starting with **Made in Hull**, 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.

Hull 2017's second season, **Roots and Routes**, runs from April to June and explore Hull's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city; this season of work will also celebrate Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown.

**Freedom** runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, *Freedom* will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, **Tell the World** will run from October to December.

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 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, 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, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

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](http://www.hull2017.co.uk) Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull  
Facebook HullCityofCulture