



## PRESS RELEASE

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# John Heffernan appointed Senior Curator at Hull's Humber Street Gallery

## Announcement comes as Arts Council England invests £125,000 into the contemporary art space

John Heffernan has been appointed as the new Senior Curator at Hull's Humber Street Gallery.

John joins from the Jupiter Artland Foundation, an award-winning collection of contemporary art near Edinburgh, which has commissioned work by some of the world's foremost contemporary artists. As Head of Exhibitions at Jupiter Artland, John co-curated and produced permanent outdoor commissions and established a temporary commissions programme to support the production of outdoor work for emerging artists.

He is joining Humber Street Gallery at a pivotal time. The gallery opened last year as a part of the Hull 2017 programme and was originally intended to be a pop-up contemporary art space. Following a series of well-received exhibitions throughout 2017 and the success of Hull's City of Culture year, the plan is build the gallery's reputation for contemporary, thought-provoking work, adding to Hull's status as a centre for high quality visual arts.

John is developing a long-term plan for the gallery, working alongside his team of Kate West, Louis Jones and David Cleary, as well as Hull 2017 joint CEOs Katy Fuller and Emma Morris.

John Heffernan said: "Humber Street Gallery has established itself as an increasingly significant space for contemporary art and I am looking forward to working with the team to develop the programme of exhibitions and projects in 2018 and beyond. We will be announcing more details about upcoming shows over the next few months. I am also very keen to increase the gallery's links with local artists and organisations as well as build its reputation and profile throughout the region and around the country."

Ambitions for Humber Street Gallery have been bolstered by a £125,000 investment through Arts Council's Grants for the Arts funding programme.

Emma Morris, Executive Director and joint CEO, Hull 2017, said: "It is fantastic news that Arts Council England are investing in Hull and this important art space for the city, Yorkshire and the North. It underlines the commitment of funding partners to help ensure a cultural legacy following the massive success of Hull's City of Culture year."

Pete Massey, Director North, Arts Council England said: "I'm delighted that John Heffernan is joining the Humber Street Gallery and I look forward to seeing him build on the great success the gallery enjoyed during 2017."

"The Arts Council is committed to continuing to invest in Hull's cultural ambitions to help sustain a legacy from UK City of Culture and our new National Lottery award of £125,000 to the gallery is a reflection of that. Since 2015, the value of awards through our National Lottery funded Grants for the Arts programme in the city has gone up by over 300% and for the next four years from April we'll be increasing our national portfolio investment to £9,009,740."

Humber Street Gallery's current shows are Richie Culver's *No one knows me like Dawn from the Job Centre* and Tim Noble and Sue Webster's *Forever*. They run until 27 May 2018 and are free to visit.

Pictures of John Heffernan and from the two current exhibitions can be found at [this link](#).

[www.humbestreetgallery.co.uk](http://www.humbestreetgallery.co.uk)

For more information please contact

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **Humber Street Gallery**

Humber Street Gallery opened in February 2017 as a new contemporary art space in the heart of the city's Fruit Market cultural quarter. Housed in a former fruit warehouse, the gallery showcases the best in contemporary visual arts from the shocking to the sublime, including painting, photography, installations and performance. Humber Street Gallery seeks to generate debate, push boundaries, encourage new ways of thinking and inspire with a varied programme to appeal to those both familiar and not so familiar with the arts. It also offers a popular café and bar on the ground floor, as well as a rooftop bar.

[www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk](http://www.humberstreetgallery.co.uk)

### **John Heffernan**

John Heffernan was Head of Exhibitions at Jupiter Artland Foundation, a private collection of contemporary art located 12 miles west of Edinburgh. He was formerly Assistant Director at Mary Mary Gallery, Glasgow and graduated from Edinburgh College of Art with a BA (hons) Fine Art. At Jupiter Artland he curated a range of international exhibitions across the 5 gallery spaces and staged temporary and permanent outdoor commissions across the landscape, often with emerging artists working on their first outdoor commission. He initiated and launched a series of mini live art festivals that staged site specific performance based artwork. He has contributed to and edited several publication titles at Jupiter Artland and played a key role in the organisations nomination for the Art Fund Museum of the Year nomination in 2016. He was awarded the Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial grant in 2016.

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

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 has during the last year overseen more than 2,800 events, at more than 300 venues and public spaces across the city, from galleries, museums and theatres, to shopping centres and schools, to parks and squares.

The Hull 2017 programme has involved every art form, from drama, comedy and dance, to visual arts and literature, to music and film, attracting millions of local people and visitors. 9 out of 10 residents have experienced at least one cultural event and over 100 schools have taken part in the Hull 2017 *No Limits* learning programme, which has reached over 60,000 children and young people. Central to the success of the year have been the more than 2,500 volunteers, who have given 33 years of activity, or more than 300,000 hours, bringing their knowledge, passion and commitment, as well as unwavering good humour.

Culture Company, which was set up to deliver 365 days of transformative culture, is an independent organisation with charitable status. To deliver the programme, it raised £32 million, with over more than 80 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. Key contributions have come 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.

Locally and nationally, the response has exceeded all expectations. 2017 year has demonstrated the importance of culture in our cities, as a source of joy, economically and in terms of health and well-being. The ambition now is to build on the year's success, as part of wider city plans to create a sustainable legacy for Hull and the people who live here.

Culture Company is to carry on as a permanent national arts company based in Hull. With a core purpose to continue commissioning world-class arts programming aimed at residents and visitors, it will work strategically with partners inside the city and across the UK, to cement Hull's reputation as a centre for culture and creativity. Culture Company will also develop its role as an independent organisation specialising in culture and cities, which in addition to commissioning work, will offer unrivalled expertise, consultancy and advocacy, across the UK and internationally.

For information go to [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter: [@2017Hull](https://twitter.com/@2017Hull), Instagram [@2017hull](https://www.instagram.com/@2017hull) and Facebook: [HullCityofCulture](https://www.facebook.com/HullCityofCulture).