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**PRESS PREVIEW 21 June 2018**

**EXHIBITIONS 22 June – 9 September 2018**

# BALTIC



2018 will see the launch of **Great Exhibition of the North**, an 80-day celebration of the cultural legacy and creative production of the North, with events taking place from 22 June – 9 September across NewcastleGateshead. **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** will present a series of exhibitions and offsite commissions by internationally renowned artists with strong connections to the North of England. The events will form a public programme to celebrate the creative and independent spirit of northern identity, addressing community, place and collective belonging.

BALTIC forms one of three hub venues of Great Exhibition of the North; with Sage Gateshead presenting a programme celebrating Northern music; and the Great North Museum becoming home to hundreds of star objects on loan from UK's leading collections. Visitors will begin their journey at one of these three iconic hubs before joining three trails through 30 world-class venues and public spaces on either side of the River Tyne that celebrate the North's achievements in art and culture, design, and innovation. An ambitious events programme will take place throughout the festival, beginning with a launch event on Friday 22 June with a range of performances taking place along the Tyne that evening

BALTIC's vast exhibition spaces will host a new commission by Turner prize-nominated installation artist **Michael Dean**; a film installation exploring communism in Manchester by **Phil Collins**; site-specific sculptures by Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan; a solo show of all-new work by Turner prize-winning artist **Lubaina Himid**; and a series of displays and projects addressing northern identity, in **Idea of North. BALTIC 39** will showcase new and existing works by Liverpool Biennial Associate Artists, 11 artists from the North of England.

Offsite commissions include a community-focused weekly event coinciding with **Lubaina Himid's** exhibition; a North-inspired concrete sculpture by **Ryan Gander**; the first public outdoor commission by artist duo **Jane and Louise Wilson**; and an LED sculptural work by **Tim Etchells**.

**Lubaina Himid, *Our Kisses are Petals*, 11 May – 28 October 2018, Ground Floor Gallery / Lubaina Himid, *Raising the Flag*, Baltic Square, 24 June – 9 September 2018**



*Our Kisses are Petals* features new work and a community-focussed outdoor commission by Turner-prize winning artist Lubaina Himid, employing the patterns, colours and symbolism of the Kanga, a traditional East African fabric. Throughout the exhibition oversized Kangas bearing the words of influential writers such as Maude Sulter, Essex Hemphill and Audre Lorde are suspended on a system of pulleys across BALTIC's ground-floor gallery space, that visitors are invited to

rearrange to form their own narratives. From 24 June, communities will be invited to take part in a weekly event every Sunday morning in Baltic Square.

***Idea of North*, 11 May – 30 September 2018**

**Level 4 Gallery**

*Idea of North* presents a series of displays and projects that play with the convention of the 'expo' exhibition. Spanning the space of the Level 4 gallery, purposely built pavilions and architectural constructions are guest curated to explore and connect the past with the future, reflecting on stories of a proud northern identity. Addressing a sense of community, place and collective belonging, *Idea of North* makes connections between historical moments and individual stories. The exhibition includes work and contributions from Matt Stokes, Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen, Chris Killip, MaterialDriven, Ryder Architecture, Jimmy Turrell, David Blandy and Larry Achiampong amongst others.



**Phil Collins, *Ceremony*, 22 June – 30 September 2018**

**Level 2 Gallery**



In the film installation *Ceremony*, Phil Collins returns Friedrich Engels to Manchester – the city where he made his name – in the form of a Soviet-era statue, driven across Europe and permanently installed in the centre of Manchester. Over the course of a year, Collins collaborated with local organisations, activists and communities to explore Engels' legacy and the lives of workers today. Collins describes *Ceremony* as 'the search for a statue of Engels and its journey back home, the everyday stories of people from Manchester, and a

homecoming party to inaugurate the statue, with Russia's 1917 revolution as a pivotal moment in the process'. The second part of *Ceremony* is a film interweaving these three strands – connecting Manchester to the idea of communism, which transformed the post-war world and helped to shape the society we live in today.

Co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW, HOME, Manchester and Manchester International Festival. Supported by Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence, the BBC, the Henry Moore Foundation and My Festival Circle.

**Michael Dean, 22 June – 30 September 2018**

**Level 3 Gallery**

Michael Dean will produce a major new commission that responds to BALTIC's vast Level 3 gallery. Using his own writing as a starting point, Dean gives language material form, creating moulds and casts of words and incorporating pages from his own personal texts and self-published books.



**Ryan Gander, *To Give Light (Northern Aspirational Charms)* 2018,  
22 June – 28 August 2018 Baltic Square, Gateshead**



Ryan Gander's commission for Great Exhibition of the North comprises ten concrete sculptures depicting objects originally designed to emit light with a historical link to the North of England. These include the first incandescent light bulb, developed by Joseph Swan and the Geordie lamp invented by George Stephenson. Each element is complete with a section of maritime mooring chain. Arranged in a circular configuration, each sculpture is complete with a section of mooring

chain, referencing the maritime history of the River Tyne.

**Jane and Louise Wilson, *Suspended Island*, 22 June – 9 September 2018  
Low Yard, access through Live Garden, Live Theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne**

For their first public outdoor commission, Jane and Louise Wilson combine song, animation, narration and film footage to expand on the idea of the 'Suspended Island', a notion that hints at Britain's current political position, as well as the perception of the North East as closer to Scotland, yet part of England. Film footage of Trinity House on Newcastle upon Tyne quayside and the now abandoned coastal fortifications on Governors Island is woven together with song, animation, and a narrative including a series of interviews with refugees from Bosnia, Kurdistan, Ukraine and Democratic Republic of the Congo that were recorded at a refugee drop in centre in Derby.

The film is accompanied by two architectural reclaimed diving board platforms, suggesting a tension, a sense of misplaced nostalgia for lost urban geography within an island mentality. With kind permission of Newcastle upon Tyne Trinity House.



**Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan, *A Successful Proposition for the Great North  
Exhibition*, 22 June – 9 September 2018, various internal locations at BALTIC, Gateshead**



Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan's site-specific commission consists of a number of elements, including a series of sculptural faces built into the internal walls of BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead. These faces speak a text that, amongst other things, weaves together a narrative of the 18th-century Newcastle-born radical Thomas Spence, and his anti-power satirical motifs, into the contemporary context of BALTIC and an event like Great Exhibition of the North.

**Tim Etchells, *With/Against* 2018, 22 June – 28 August 2018, Baltic Square**

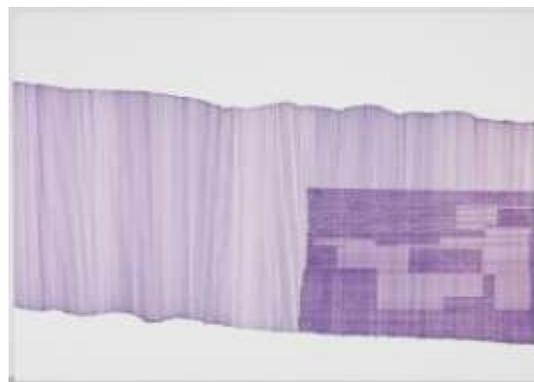


Tim Etchells' site-specific sculptural work looks out towards the river Tyne from Gateshead Quays. The work uses innovative LED technology to expand upon previous public commissions that explore the speed, clarity and vividness with which language communicates narrative, image and ideas. The work is made up of a well-used colloquialism alongside an idiom that seems to read in opposition, developing Etchells' practice of language interrogation and the context dependant relationship between the work and the viewer. *With/Against* will have a commanding

presence beside the river, presenting an ambiguous instruction to all who encounter the work, and examining the productive and constraining effect that language can have.

***We Are Where We Are*, Presented by Liverpool Biennial & BALTIC, 15 June – 21 October 2018, BALTIC 39, Newcastle upon Tyne**

This exhibition at BALTIC 39, Newcastle upon Tyne showcases new and existing works by Liverpool Biennial Associate Artists, 11 artists from the North of England. The show and programme are the culmination of a three-year initiative by Liverpool Biennial, in partnership with Independent Curators International, New York and CACTUS, Liverpool.



Artists: Simeon Barclay, Jacqueline Bebb, Lindsey Bull, Robert Carter & Lauren Velvick, Nina Chua, Matthew Crawley, Frances Disley, Daniel Fogarty, Harry Meadley, Stephen Sheehan

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**Spokespeople Available Include:**

Sarah Munro, Director

**BALTIC** is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions.

**BALTIC 39** is a vibrant community of practicing artists located on High Bridge in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne. This publicly accessible, cultural hub for contemporary art practice and research opened in April 2012 as a unique collaborative venture between Newcastle City Council, Arts Council England, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and Northumbria University. The former Ward's printing warehouse and distinctive Grade II listed building at 39 High Bridge Street is home to BALTIC's project space – a stunning top-floor gallery, 33 artists' studios and the BxNU Institute of Contemporary Art.



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## Great Exhibition of the North

- In October 2016, NewcastleGateshead was selected to host Great Exhibition of the North; NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI) led the bid and is the lead delivery partner for the Exhibition, working closely with colleagues at Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Sage Gateshead, Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and a board chaired by Sir Gary Verity.
- City Delivery Partners including Newcastle University, Northumbria University, Gateshead College and NUFC are also providing vital support for Great Exhibition of the North.
- Towns and cities across the North of England are getting involved by being part of the 'Inspired by' programme of events, experiences and performances.
- Great Exhibition of the North is encouraging schools to get involved, with content available on the website to both download teaching resources and upload their responses. Schools are able to do follow up work developed in the classroom by booking a tailored visit to the Exhibition during the final four weeks of the summer term.
- Great Exhibition of the North will provide a range of exciting volunteer opportunities for individuals, groups and businesses. A team of over 1,000 volunteers will welcome visitors to NewcastleGateshead, interpreting themes of exhibition, lead school groups and provide event support at special one-off occasions. Applications are now open, training will be 15 hours from now until June and each volunteer will need to commit to 40 hours from 22 June to 09 September 2018.
- On Tuesday 27 February the BBC announced a partnership to support Great Exhibition of the North.
- Great Exhibition of the North is supported by Premier Partners Virgin Trains, Accenture and CISCO.
- Funding has also been secured via Innovate UK, VisitBritain, Royal Commission for the Exhibition 1851, the Sir James Knott Trust and Reece Foundation and by England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.
- National Lottery players have supported the Great Exhibition of the North through £1.7m of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund; Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England.
- Womble Bond Dickinson, Ward Hadaway, Siemens, Port of Tyne, Virgin Money, BT, Robertson and NewSubstance are proud partners of Great Exhibition of the North.
- Newcastle Airport, Greggs plc, Go North East, Tyne & Wear Metro and Northumbrian Water, Shout Digital, Stagecoach, PwC, Nexus, the Barbour Foundation and Ubisoft are supporting partners.



 HM Government