Green Port Hull
Sculptures Along the Public Right of Way at Alexandra Dock
February 2016
Overview

In 2014 Associated British Ports (ABP) contacted Hull School of Art and Design with an exciting proposal for students and interns to create public art along the diverted public right of way at Alexandra Dock which is required to enable the development of Green Port Hull. Green Port Hull is a world-class offshore wind turbine blade manufacturing, assembly and servicing facility which will be operated by Siemens.

From this starting point there unfolded a collaboration between students, interns, lecturers, engineers, ABP personnel, Hull City Council and the arts company Spearfish. Through a series of meetings, selection processes and workshops the project took shape and five sculptures were commissioned. The students and interns, working alongside ABP engineers, were tasked to develop and realise their proposals. This was a unique opportunity to learn the intricacies of the construction process, from their initial creative designs to the practical fabrication of the large-scale sculptures. Alongside this they gained experience in the planning, installation and legal aspects of creating public artworks. An additional sixth sculpture is being commissioned independently.

With the open-minded and generous support of ABP the students and interns were able to develop a diverse and imaginative array of site-specific sculptures. Each has responded to the particular nature of the docks in Hull, the history and future of the port and the industrial materials and objects at their disposal.

This is an exciting project that marks a moment of social and economic change in Hull. We hope that partnerships between education and industry continue to enrich the culture and fabric of the city through further thought-provoking and unexpected art.

Anna Kirk-Smith & Jill Howitt

Hull School of Art and Design
Green Port Hull - Sculpture Timescale

**TIMESCALE & DATES**

1. Introduction to project & meet the team
2. Site visit and viewing of maritime equipment
3. Work up designs for sculptures
4. Issues designs for sculptures
5. Work up final designs
6. Review panel to choose design (ABP, Hull City Council, Spearfish)
7. Prepare artwork
8. Install artwork

GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED

- November 2014
- February 2015
- March - May 2015
- May 2015
- June – October 2015
- October 2015
- October 2015
- April 2016
Artists’ Statements
Throughout the following section you will be introduced to the students of the Hull School of Art & Design, gain insight into their practice and be introduced to the responses they have developed for the Green Port Hull Public Right-of-Way Sculpture Trail.

Inspired by Hull’s rich maritime heritage and the city’s aspiration to lead as a renewable energy provider, each of the artists’ have reacted and responded in unique and creative ways to celebrate the heritage of the space their installations will occupy. All of the artists have explored the plethora of visual and material-based inspirations that the site has to offer in order to communicate the ideas and concepts that lie at the heart of their art works.

Each artist has a creative footprint that communicates a range of interests, philosophies and perspectives for the future of the physical space and audiences their work will interact with.
I was born in Hull and have lived here most of my life but I travel extensively and have lived in Valencia. I am married to Alan who works as an Offshore Engineer and have 3 daughters, Grace 24, Ellie 22 and Ruby 17. I graduated from the Hull School of Art & Design in 2011.

Currently an intern at HSAD I also work as a visual artist and community arts worker. My work has been shown at the International Print Biennale and I have worked on commissions for Freedom Festival and the Humber St Sesh, as well as exhibiting across the city. I am currently delivering workshops with disengaged sectors of the community on a project for ‘Untold Stories’. I was recently a finalist for Amsterdam Light Festival and will be showing work at Light Night Leeds. Earlier this year I was awarded Bronze in the specialist screen printing category at FESPA Cologne.
I create beautiful light installations
I create beautiful light installations where the audience is able to participate in a positive and moving visual experience. I like the viewer to be able to move around, look through, and somehow develop a relationship with the work. It is important to me that my artwork is accessible to all sections of a community beyond the constraints of a gallery or theatre space – a shared experience on as public a platform as possible.

I use non-traditional materials and mediums for example acrylic sheets and phosphorescent inks to create screen printed light installations that immerse the viewer in multi-layered landscapes.
My starting point was the port as a place of transition; a place where people start a journey to a new life, where visitors arrive to stay or pass through. MOVEMENT was the immediate thought that came to mind when considering the Port, ABP and Siemens. My concept for the sculpture is to reflect this movement using aluminium, text and phosphorescent pigments.

I am working with local poet Shane Rhodes to create a newly commissioned piece of writing for the sculpture. Shane understands the history and uniqueness of Hull; its people and language and will respond to the changing face of the port.

This experience has been an interesting process. I have learnt how to work alongside a wide range of professionals, to develop relationships with all the different partners. Each partner comes to the project from a different perspective and as the artist it has been a challenging but worthwhile experience collaborating with industry, the council and arts organisations.

I hope this project will help to raise my profile as an arts professional on a national and international level and deliver a piece of work that will enhance the public experience of the pathway. People will be able to connect with the sculpture as they pass by day or night. My hope is that they will respond to the shapes and words that resonate with ABP, Hull and Green Port.

I am inspired by artists that create work that is accessible to all. Each project brings its own inspiration; I thrive on new challenges.

The thing I am most proud of I am really proud of changing career path and completing a degree as a mature student. This has been a challenging but exciting time for me and I am really looking forward to what the future holds.

Project Title: EBB FLOW

Green Port Hull: Sculptures Along the Public Right of Way at Alexandra Dock
Holly Lawson

I began studying art at Hull College at Park Street where I took a foundation course. I then decided to stay in Hull and progressed on to a Fine Art degree at Hull School of Art and Design, where I am currently undertaking my third year. I have interests in history, archaeology and preservation which inspire my sculptural practice. I’ve lived in Hull for fourteen years and the city has made a strong impact on me as an individual and as an artist. Family is particularly important to me, my mother also studies at the art school and has been a big influence on my life.
I use a variety of media to explore themes or issues but favour casting and drawing."
Over the past two years of my degree I have explored an interdisciplinary approach and produced sculpture, painting, performance and photographic work. Sometimes I work with a direct brief and produce work that communicates a clear meaning and sometimes my work can be more ambiguous and engages the viewer in drawing on their own experiences to interpret the piece. I have enjoyed the experience of working with a particular site in mind so that the location inspires or informs the creative process. I often start with a single theme or object but through the research process ideas accumulate and snowball. I use a variety of media to explore themes or issues but favour casting and drawing as my main mode of investigation. Currently I am exploring sculptural processes, techniques and materials but I am drawing on my experience using a wider range of materials in the past.
My starting point came from Hull Maritime Museum; I found the forms of Maritime knots fascinating with their intricate designs both aesthetic and functional. The design is based on a Sheepshank Knot. Knots still have functional as well as historical relevance in today’s society. These forms represent connections with our maritime past and the securing of our future in green energy with the Siemens investment. I feel that they are excellent visual inspiration for creating an aesthetic sculpture, a three-dimensional sinuous drawing.

I have learnt to expand my exploration as an artist and that inspiration for artwork can come from a variety of different sources.

**ABP Project**

I hope that the sculpture will allow the audience to engage with Hull’s maritime past in new and less obvious ways. I hope that the knot will be seen as a symbol of strength in the city; creating a connection between the past and the future on this site which is in the process of being transformed. My hopes as an artist is to gain experience in working within an environment that is new to me and possibly open up opportunities for the future.

**Project Title:**  
**Sheepshank**
The middle child of a non-traditional family from Bolton, I have always been fortunate enough to have access to a wide variety of expertise on different trade practices such as shutter fitting, gardening, plastering and electrics. These directly impact upon my own artwork and the thought processes behind it. I consider myself an avid ‘people watcher’ and find that a lot of my social observations can sometimes surface – sometimes unintentionally – through my work. Currently studying Fine Art at Hull School of Art and design, I am due to graduate in 2016.
I feel particularly drawn towards the tactility and materiality of objects and surfaces.
Artist Statement

With a strong interest in working environments, labour and the everyday urban world – I tend to look towards industries and infrastructural systems to draw inspiration from. A lot of my work plays between materiality and association as I look towards transforming objects and symbols which usually embody, epitomize or at the very least comment on their relevant trade or craft.

My practice primarily encompasses both Sculpture and Printmaking with a more responsive approach to whatever materials I find. I juggle with sculptural traditions and more contemporary concerns whilst also initiating awareness of both tactile and physical qualities. I enjoy balancing or contrasting juxtaposing elements together in one situation or piece of work –such as the relationships between hard and soft, solid and linear, sculptural and conceptual or 2D and 3D elements.

An underlying focus on people and the traces and systems that societies and individuals leave is evident in a majority of my work; it relates to and comments on modern day humanity and the work that has gone into crafting our society.
A site visit to the Port at ABP Hull kick-started my project. The working environment full of machinery, maritime equipment and debris became somewhat like a giant playground or toy box in my eyes - I was captivated by everything from the towering cranes to the flaking paints which revealed the rust on the disused shipping containers. Surrounded by a mixture of powerful machinery and raw materials, the port provided a well of endless sculptural inspiration. 

This supported experience has set me on a path for undertaking more public commissions and has taught me invaluable skills on how to approach what had previously seemed like monumental tasks. 

ABP Project

Through the success of this project we will hopefully open up further opportunities for other students and emerging artists to produce fresh and exciting work. As well as this, a project of this scale provides invaluable experience for me assisting with future work and developing relationships with other industries and organisations.

Project Title:

A Diagram On Intermodalism
I was born and brought up in East Hull and have always enjoyed painting and drawing. After attending a number of part time courses in art I enrolled as a mature student on the BA Contemporary Fine Art degree at Hull School of Art and Design and graduated with 1st class honours in 2010. Since then I have been making art work for local businesses, collaborating with Studio Eleven and contributing to festivals in Hull.
When I create from materials some consider as ‘past it’, it gives others the opportunity to look at the new life the object is now living.
My practice involves working in three dimensions with found materials; I also produce figurative paintings including landscape-based work. I have been brought up with a ‘mend it rather than buy it’ approach to life; this has influenced my style and approach to making. If it fits on my bike or in my rucksack I gather it up so that one day it may take on a new life. When I create from materials some consider as ‘past it’, it gives others the opportunity to look at the new life the object is now living. I just like making.

Creativity is a long learning curve, when you feel you know it all, something new arrives. Thus far my creative journey has taken me from the traditional realm of painting and drawing, through a degree course that taught me that anything can be art, to my current experience of transforming disused industrial objects into public sculpture.
My sculpture began with the ideas and possibilities suggested by the two 1960’s grabs that I encountered on a site visit. The dock history is locked away in these old abandoned mechanical objects which will become anthropomorphic sculptures linking the past and future of the site. The bottom grab will be closed with its chains and industrial internal mechanism welded shut; keeping its history intact. The second grab, once a symbol of industry will now represent the dock’s future. This second grab will be upturned and secured in place, its internal workings will be removed and its arms will be outstretched and no longer rusted shut. The limbs will unfurl from the base like the petals of a flower, as it opens to absorb nature.

I’m learning how to work alongside other artists and engineers and outside companies. We’ve been given a wonderful opportunity, as artists and students, to contribute to the transformation of the site. I am learning about the complexities of working on a large scale public art project.

My hope is to give these disused objects a new lease of life as sculpture on the Trans Pennine Trail. I imagine these industrial icons greeting the public.
I am twenty two years old, living in Hull, and graduated in 2014 with a first class honours in Fine Art from Hull School of Art & Design. During my degree I realised my true passion lies within sculpture. I am a collector of intriguing objects. I document things I see on a daily basis and can pick out ready-made accidental sculptures in almost everything. I enjoy travelling, creating when and where I can with the immediate and found materials that surround me.
As an artist who is a collector of found objects I explore form and balance.
I deal with the ready-made and the ready-to-be-unmade. My sculpture employs objects taken out of their usual context which take on a new character by shedding their normal roles and rules. Elevated from mundane everyday routines and without function, they become fantasy.

As an artist who is a collector of found objects I explore form and balance, through interconnection and juxtaposition: surface, material and form contribute equally to the process of disguising or emphasizing recognisable objects. I often spray paint these objects using intense colours, working quickly and spontaneously. Overlapping patterns emerge through the repetitive use of ready-made stencils on a range of different surfaces and connect unrelated or opposed objects by merging two and three-dimensional elements together. I create installations in which the viewer performatively interacts with these forms and the surrounding space. I compose and curate the work in relation to its immediate surroundings, intuitively testing and pushing boundaries.
When visiting the site we were shown industrial maritime materials that had been found on the dock. As a sculptor who is very fond of working with found objects I have a real passion for metal, recycled and historically functional objects and believed it extremely important that these were used in the sculpture. Simply walking around the yard inspired me hugely; I imagined the intriguing compositions and constructions I could create combining a wide range of shaped objects.

My starting point for the project, therefore, consisted of thinking of ways to site-specifically interpret the recycled materials to enhance the experience of the public using the pathway / cycle route. I wanted the design to connect to all ages, whether through the triggering of memories for the older generation or the gaining of historical knowledge by the younger generation. I don’t think you can reference the history of the dock in any better way than using actual materials found on the site as straight away they are recognisable and tell stories through their condition, material texture and shapes.

Through this experience I have learnt that there are many stages and procedures that are essential when undertaking a commissioned project like this one, including planning, costing, budget control and health and safety awareness. Time management and deadlines are paramount as there are groups of individuals all working on different areas of the project together. Other skills I have gained include negotiating with other companies and professionals in different areas of expertise, learning their procedures and the work involved to create and install a piece of public art work.

My hopes for the ABP project are for this to be the first of my works to be erected in the public realm. I want to gain a true all-round experience of overseeing the designing and erecting of my sculpture at all stages of the process and installation. I hope that it will inspire further artworks for Hull.

Project Title:
Associated British Parts
For further information on the Green Port Hull Sculpture Along the Public Right of Way at Alexandra Dock project, please contact

Laura Morrish  
Projects Manager, Humber Associated British Ports  
Address: PO Box 1, Port House, Northern Gateway, Hull, HU9 5PQ  
Email: lmorrish@abports.co.uk  
Telephone: 07715 612569

Anna Kirk-Smith  
Programme Leader BA(Hons) Fine Art  
Address: Hull School of Art & Design, Queens Gardens, Hull HU1 3DG  
Email: anna.kirk-smith@artdesignhull.ac.uk  
Telephone: 01482 480970 Ext 2076