

# OFFSHORE

ARTISTS EXPLORE THE SEA

1 April - 28 August 2017

**Ferens Art Gallery**

Queen Victoria Square, Hull HU1 3RA

**Hull Maritime Museum**

Queen Victoria Square, Hull HU1 3DX



## Introduction

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*Offshore: artists explore the sea* examines the many contrasting ways that the sea has shaped our culture, our imaginations and our physical existence through mythical sea monsters, superstition and seaside traditions as well as trade and travel. While inherently without borders, we have mapped the sea for exploitation, geo-political advantage and for conservation.

Ten new commissions have been produced specially for *Offshore*, including works developed in conversation with leading marine scientists. Existing works by contemporary artists have been selected for their related insights into the sea.

The works are presented across Hull Maritime Museum and the Ferens Art Gallery. At the Museum, artworks find new meaning in relationship to historic maritime collections where artists intervene within the museum displays. At the Ferens, maritime paintings from the fine art collection gain a new perspective within this contemporary exhibition.

Unlike the surface depictions of the sea found in traditional maritime painting, contemporary artists in this exhibition have been given the opportunity to look beneath the waves: the writer China Miéville explored the ocean depths of Bermuda in a submersible to write an essay, and artist Phil Coy joined a fishing boat out of Bridlington Harbour to create a new film.

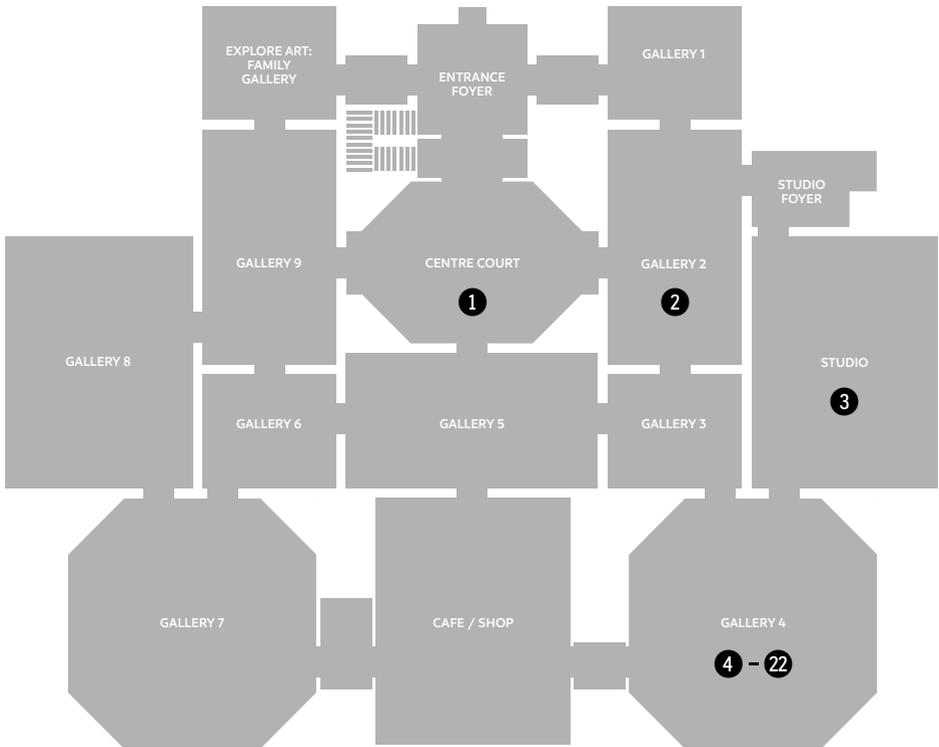
Our treatment of the sea threatens its health: climate change, coral bleaching, toxic waste and flooding are some of the issues that artists explore through their work. This and a complex web of ownership, trade and migration provide a wider background to the exhibition.

Curated by Invisible Dust

### ***Sounding the Sea Symposium***

15 & 16 June 2017

Ferens Art Gallery and  
University of Hull



**1 Alexander Duncan**  
**Cove, 2007–2017**  
Polyurethane and polystyrene

**2 Bik Van der Pol**  
**Anatomy of a Scene, 2017**  
Printed carpet and voice  
recorded sound  
(8 at 10 mins each)

*Offshore* Commission with thanks  
to the letter writers and the Royal  
Collection Trust © Her Majesty Queen  
Elizabeth II 2017

**3 John Akomfrah**  
**Mnemosyne, 2010**  
Single channel HD colour video,  
5.1 sound  
(45 mins 6 secs)

**Screened in The Studio**  
**Thursdays, Fridays and**  
**Saturdays only**

**4 Mariele Neudecker**  
***One More Time –  
The Architeuthis Dux  
Phenomenon, 2017***

HD video  
(2 mins 35 secs)

*Offshore* Commission with thanks to  
the Natural History Museum, London.  
Courtesy Galerie Barbara Thumm,  
Berlin

**5 China Miéville**  
***Tehom, 2017***

Essay printed in quantity of  
50,000 designed by Jurgis  
Griskevicius  
Audio recording  
(4 mins 9 secs)

*Offshore* Commission with support  
from Oliver Steeds, Prof Alex Rogers,  
University of Oxford

**6 Dorothy Cross**  
***Ghost Ship, 1999***

35 mm film and DVD8 footage  
transferred to seamless loop  
(cycle 12 mins 17 secs)

Ferens Art Gallery

**7 Shimabuku**  
***Octopus Stone, 2013***

Stones and shells with  
vinyl text

Courtesy the Artist and Wilkinson  
Gallery, London

**8 John Loker**  
***Vertical Extracts 2, 1979***

Oil and acrylic on canvas

Ferens Art Gallery

**9 David Malone and  
Andrew Thompson**  
***The Secret Life of Waves,  
2009***

Television broadcast  
Shot on digibeta (59 mins)

Commissioned for BBC Scotland

**10 Willem van de Velde II**  
***The Four Days Battle, 1666***

Oil on canvas

Ferens Art Gallery

**11 Scrimshaw**

**Item 1:** *Engraved Sperm whale tooth*, 19th century  
Probably British

**Item 2:** *Engraved Sperm whale tooth*, 1833/35  
Unusually signed 'Waite'  
Probably North American

**Item 3:** Probably North American, 20th century

**Item 4:** From North America, 19th century

Hull Maritime Museum Collection

**12 John Keith Vaughan**  
***Coast Defences (Seaford, East Sussex), c.1959–1962***

Oil on canvas

Ferens Art Gallery

**13 Saskia Olde Wolbers**  
***Pfui – Pish, Pshaw / Prr, 2017***

Two channel HD video  
(20 mins)

Co-commissioned by Nadja Argyropoulou for Polyeco Contemporary Art Initiative and Invisible Dust with support from Wellcome Trust, The Elephant Trust, Goldsmiths University, Breathing Space Award Space Studios London

**14 Tacita Dean**  
***Roaring Forties: Seven Boards in Seven Days, 1997***

Chalk on blackboard

Tate: Presented by the Patrons of New Art through the Tate Gallery Foundation 2000. With thanks to Frith Street Gallery London

**15 Henry Redmore**  
***Boats off Whitby, North Yorkshire, 1875***

Oil on canvas

Ferens Art Gallery

**16 Adam Chodzko**  
***Rising, 2013***

Audio installation  
(20 mins)

Commissioned by Invisible Dust and Great North Run Culture in 2013

**17 John Amhurst Selby-Bigge**  
***Composition, 1936***

Oil on obeche panel

Ferens Art Gallery

**18 Kasia Molga with World Wilder Lab and Electronudes**

***The Coral Love Story: Chapter #1 | Getting Acquainted, 2017***

Wearable: mixed media, bespoke technology and software, data from NOAA website  
HD video (3 mins)

*Offshore* Commission with thanks to Sebastian Prajsnar, Aquarist, The Deep

**19 Martin Parr**

***North Bay, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England, UK, 2016***

Pigment print

***South Bay, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England, UK, 2016***

Pigment print

***North Bay, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England, UK, 2016***

Pigment print

***North Bay, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England, UK, 2016***

Pigment print

*Offshore* Commission

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos

**20 John Smith**  
***Horizon (Five Pounds a Belgian), 2012***

HD video, colour, sound  
Seamless loop  
(cycle 18 mins)

Commissioned by Turner Contemporary in partnership with Stour Valley Arts and South East Dance, as part of Turning Point South East – RELAY

**21 Barbara Hepworth**  
***Icon II, 1960***

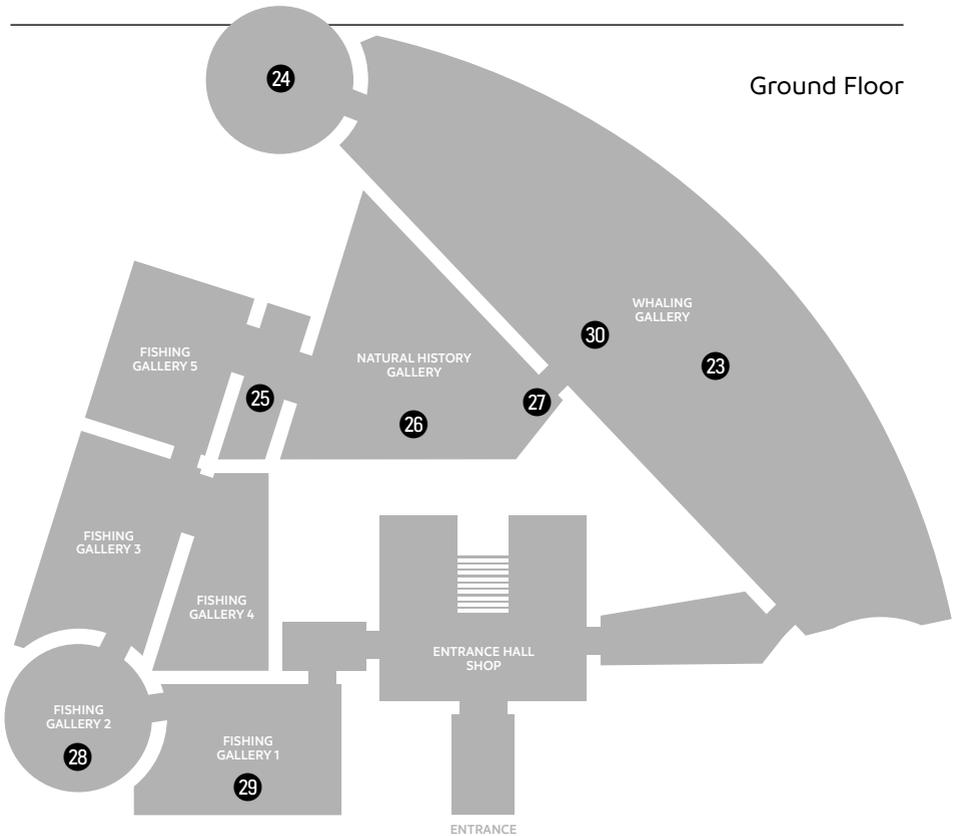
Marble

Ferens Art Gallery

**22 Bridget Riley**  
***Arround, 1963***

Emulsion on board

Ferens Art Gallery



Ground Floor

## 23 Emily Richardson

### *Petrolia*, 2005

16mm transferred to HD video

(21 mins)

Sound composer:

Benedict Drew

Commissioned by the Lighthouse  
Museum, Glasgow for the exhibition

6000 miles

Distributed by LUX

## 24 Mariele Neudecker

### *The Improbable Always*

### *Happens Sometimes*

### *[No 2/2], 2017*

Multichannel GoPro HD video  
on 6 monitors (45 mins 49 secs)

*Offshore* Commission with support  
from Bath Spa University and with  
thanks to Nekton and Prof Alex  
Rogers, University of Oxford. Courtesy  
Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

**25 John Wedgwood Clarke and Rob Mackay**

***Above 8, 2017***

Text and recorded ambisonic speech and soundscapes (18 mins continuous loop)

*Offshore* Commission with thanks to Dr Jörg D. Hardege and Prof Mike Elliott, University of Hull

**26 Badgers of Bohemia**

***Oceanus Harmonica, 2016–17***

Digital print on paper from a series of oil paintings, hand-painted wooden, gilded frame

*Offshore* Commission with thanks to Scarborough Sealife Sanctuary

**27 Shimabuku**

***Then, I decided to give a tour of Tokyo to the Octopus from Akashi, 2000***

Single channel video, sound (6 mins 50 secs)

Courtesy the Artist.  
Collaboration with Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo

**28 Mariele Neudecker**

***The Improbable Always Happens Sometimes [No 3], 2017***

Mixed media installation, including ink, paint, paper, giclée prints, digital screens and two display boxes

*Offshore* Commission with support from Bath Spa University and with thanks to Nekton, and Prof Alex Rogers, University of Oxford. Courtesy Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

**29 Phil Coy**

***Avoiding Green, 2017***

HD Video (11 mins)

*Offshore* Commission. Supported by Yorkshire Film Archives

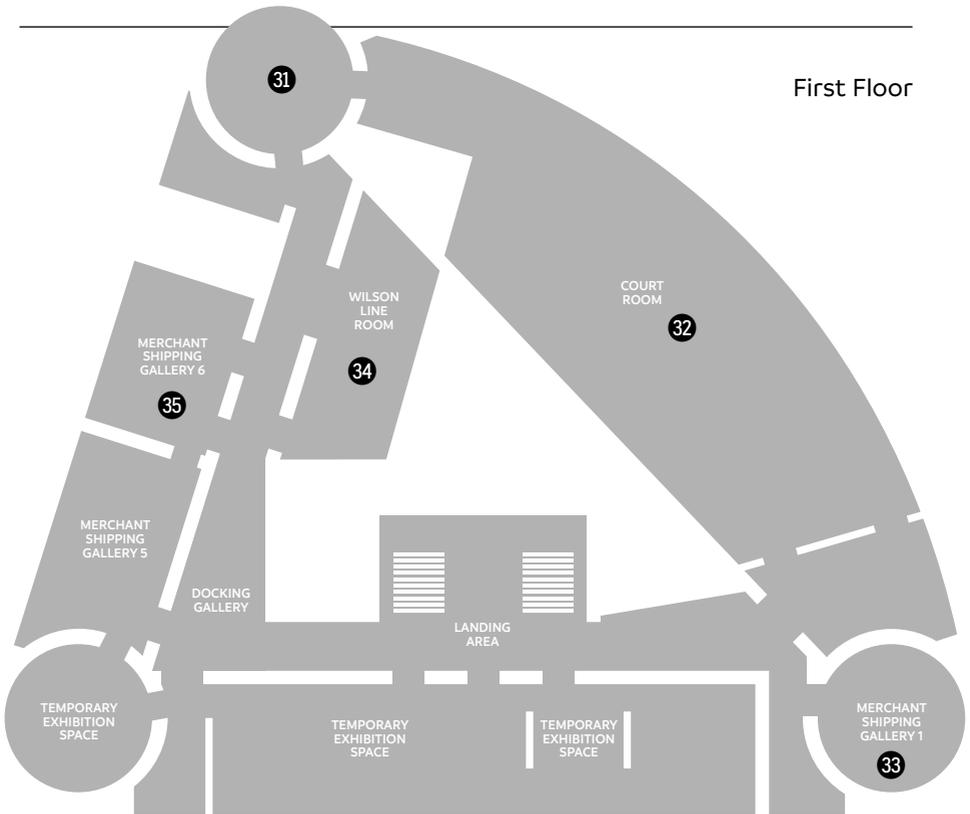
**30 China Miéville**

***Tehom, 2017***

Essay printed in quantity of 50,000 designed by Jurgis Griskevicius

Audio recording (4 mins 9 secs)

*Offshore* Commission with support from Oliver Steeds and Prof Alex Rogers, University of Oxford



**31 Mariele Neudecker**  
***The Improbable Always  
Happens Sometimes***  
**[No 1/2], 2017**

Multichannel GoPro HD video on  
6 monitors (12 mins)

*Offshore* Commission with support  
from Bath Spa University and with  
thanks to Nekton, and Prof Alex  
Rogers, University of Oxford. Courtesy  
Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

**32 Jonathan Baldock and  
Ian J Brown**  
***Toilers of the Sea*, 2017**  
Mixed media

*Offshore* Commission

**Exhibited in The Court Room  
until 2 July 2017**

## Hull Maritime Museum

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**33 Tania Kovats**  
***Where Seas Meet, 2013–14***  
***North : Baltic***  
***Tasman : Pacific***  
***Bengal : Indian : Arabian***

Seawater, glass  
Edition 1 of 3

Sponsored by Louis Vuitton. Tania Kovats is represented by Pippy Houldsworth Gallery

**34 Zineb Sedira**  
***Sugar Routes II, 2013***  
Two objects in cane sugar

Commissioned by Marseille Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture and the Port of Marseille, France

**35 Lawrence Lek**  
***QE3, 2016***  
Full HD Video Simulation  
(20 minutes 16 seconds)

Commissioned by Glasgow International 2016, Director's Programme at Tramway, curated by Sarah McCrory

## Invisible Dust Team

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This exhibition guide has been produced to accompany *Offshore: artists explore the sea* at Ferens Art Gallery and Hull Maritime Museum from 1 April to 28 August 2017

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Curated by Invisible Dust  
[www.invisibledust.com](http://www.invisibledust.com)

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**Director:**  
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**Curators:**  
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Victoria Burns

**Exhibition Designer:**  
Sam Collins

**Press Manager:**  
Simon Steven

**Symposium Coordinator:**  
Fiona Fraser-Smith

**Programme Assistant:**  
Olivia Gray

**Interim Managing Director:**  
Anna Schroeder

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Join the conversation:  
[#Offshore17](https://twitter.com/Offshore17)

*Offshore: artists explore the sea* is part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017

## Scientific & Marine Advisors

Professor in Conservation Biology,  
**Alex Rogers**, Department of  
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**Dr Magnus Johnson**, Lecturer in  
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& University Dive Officer, Centre  
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Sciences, University of Hull

**Dr Jörg D. Hardege**, Reader  
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Environmental Sciences,  
University of Hull

**Professor Mike Elliott**, Director,  
Institute of Estuarine and  
Coastal Studies and Professor  
of Estuarine & Coastal Sciences,  
School of Biological, Biomedical &  
Environmental Sciences,  
University of Hull

**Professor David Starkey**, Maritime  
History, University of Hull

**Sebastian Prajsnar**, Aquarist,  
The Deep

**Peter Sanderson** and the crew of  
PERSEVERANCE II

## Thanks

The board of Hull Culture &  
Leisure Ltd

Hull UK City of Culture team

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Hull Culture and Leisure

**Robin Diaper**  
Hull Maritime Museum

**Kirsten Simister**  
Ferens Art Gallery

**Karen Durham, Denise Fahmy,  
Jane Tarr, Ian Rimington**  
Arts Council England

**Greer Roberts**  
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**Marianne Lewsley-Stier**  
University of Hull

**Louisa Hooper**  
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commissioned works:**

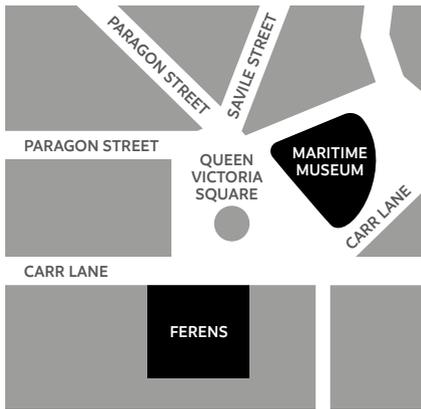
Natural History Museum, London;  
Nekton; Scarborough Sealife  
Sanctuary; Scarborough Museums  
Trust; Scarborough Maritime  
Heritage Centre; The Deep;  
Yorkshire Film Archive

## Take Action

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Our seas are at a critical tipping point in terms of health. Many iconic marine species such as the great sharks have been reduced to a fraction of their original population size. Coral reefs are being destroyed as a result of climate change and other direct human impacts. You can take action, reduce your use of plastics, use safe detergents and involve yourself in campaigns such as International State of the Ocean, Nekton and other charities working to change the current trajectory of the oceans from decline to recovery.

[stateoftheocean.org](http://stateoftheocean.org) [invisibledust.com](http://invisibledust.com)



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Working in partnership

