

“This place is built on working hands
Washed here by the sea...”

Imitating the dog's work for Hull2017 will put a poetic spin on the history of arrivals in and departures from the city. The piece will look at the history of migration from a contemporary perspective, exploring the journeys which have gathered a population and moulded a landscape.

Using *The Deep* as both canvas and building blocks the piece will pull together some of the strands of the complex and universal issues of migration as a wider subject matter. It will begin with a mosaic of the contemporary faces of Hull, a checkerboard of the broad cultural make-up of the city today. From this point we begin a journey through the many eras of migration: the 18th & 19th century workforce of Irish Navvies and Cornish fishermen; the 19th century transmigration of people venturing to the new world; the post WWII Chinese and Polish community; the 21st century EU and Kurdish community.

While the specifics of these layers of history are depicted through archive footage and photography the broader story of what migration and movement mean in our contemporary society are told through a more playful language of animation. The building will appear to transform into a number of different modes of transportation as the architecture ripples and shifts to depict a ship, a train, a barge, a plane...even a spacecraft. At the same time layers of maps and plans change into migratory animals reminding us that our travels in ever more sophisticated forms of transport are only a mirror of the natural world.

The piece will be as playful and witty as it is insightful and challenging. It will be as appealing to a child as it is to a historian.

Ultimately we would like this work to leave the viewer with a sense of hope that Hull is a city, like many more in the UK, which is built on a history of integration and culture. A city built on working hands.