

PRESS RELEASE
11 July 2019

Embargoed until 9am Thursday 11 July 2019

SEVEN SITE-SPECIFIC ART COMMISSIONS BY LEADING CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS ARE ANNOUNCED TODAY AS PART OF *ENGLAND'S CREATIVE COAST*:

ANDREAS ANGELIDAKIS, MARIANA CASTILLO DEBALL, HOLLY HENDRY, JASLEEN KAUR, KATRINA PALMER, PILAR QUINTEROS AND MICHAEL RAKOWITZ ARE EACH CREATING A NEW WORK ON THE ESSEX, KENT AND EAST SUSSEX COASTLINE.

The cultural renaissance transforming the seaside towns of England's South East — spearheaded by the region's world-class galleries and arts organisations — is the inspiration for *England's Creative Coast*, a series of art commissions and creative initiatives that will connect the coastline of Essex, Kent and East Sussex, bringing new visitors to the region. The first artwork will be launched in spring 2020 with Michael Rakowitz's commission in Margate, with the others following sequentially over the summer.

This ground-breaking project, which is led by Turner Contemporary and Visit Kent and principally funded by Arts Council England and Visit England / Visit Britain through the Discover England Fund, encompasses:

- **Waterfronts**, curated by **Tamsin Dillon** — a series of seven new site-specific art commissions by **Andreas Angelidakis, Mariana Castillo Deball, Holly Hendry, Jasleen Kaur, Katrina Palmer, Pilar Quinteros and Michael Rakowitz** launching through 2020 and on display until late Autumn
- **The world's first art GeoTour** using GPS-enabled geocaching technology to share the hidden stories and creative spirit of England's South East coast, as told by local communities
- **Art Homes**, to be piloted in Margate during the 2019 Turner Prize, which invites visitors to stay in the homes of local artists
- **Self-build itineraries** that allow visitors to curate their own journeys, from cultural experiences to food, drink and accommodation offers

Towner Eastbourne, the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, **Hastings Contemporary, Creative Folkestone, Turner Contemporary** in Margate, **Cement Fields** in Gravesend and **Metal** in Southend-on-Sea are joining forces for the first time to pioneer a cultural adventure that stretches from the South Downs to the Thames Estuary, running from Spring to late Autumn of 2020.

For images and press enquiries, please contact Pickles PR:

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Turner Contemporary

England's CREATIVE COAST

The breath-taking coastline of Essex, Kent and Sussex is home to some of the UK's most distinctive and visionary galleries and art events. From the iconic modernism of the De La Warr Pavilion —designed by architects Mendelsohn and Chermayeff to offer a new model of cultural provision for the people of Bexhill-on-Sea in 1935 and re-opened in 2005; through to the Chipperfield-designed Turner Contemporary in Margate, host of Turner Prize 2019, which has attracted over 3.2million visits and become an internationally renowned visitor attraction since opening in 2011; to Creative Folkestone's mission to transform its town through collective creativity, the area has been at the forefront of arts led regeneration.

Over the past twenty years this arts regeneration has driven a significant renaissance in the region, expanding local economies by bringing new jobs, businesses and visitors to the coast while connecting the arts to daily life. With improved rail links such as Southeastern's High Speed service, travel from London and moving from place to place along the coast has become easier and faster, bringing even more people to the area.

England's Creative Coast builds on and celebrates this success, bringing together these coastal arts organisations for the first time in a project that connects art with the coastline to explore its ecology, history and future, and invites visitors to explore the region in a new way.

Sarah Dance, Director of England's Creative Coast: *"The creative vein that runs through the South East coast is unparalleled. Our exceptional galleries and arts organisations are helping to lead the transformation of our towns. By working with the local communities and international artists to create place-specific work and by putting arts and culture at the core of the tourism offer, England's Creative Coast is creating a truly new visitor experience that will help us to celebrate and share the power that art has to transform places."*

Victoria Pomery OBE, Director of Turner Contemporary: *"We are delighted that Turner Contemporary is leading this ambitious, multi-faceted project. This is a fantastic opportunity for artists to make new site-specific works and for audiences and visitors to engage with our work and that of our partners. Investment in culture delivers many benefits and has been transformational in Margate and our partners' seaside towns."*

Deirdre Wells, CEO of Visit Kent: *"England's Creative Coast provides an exciting opportunity to showcase the cultural assets of Essex, Kent, East and West Sussex and to attract new visitors to the South East. The project offers inspiring itineraries encouraging visitors to travel further, stay longer and explore our cultural heritage in innovative ways. Whether it's exploring our wonderful galleries, spending time with and seeing an artist at work in their own home or taking part in our new Geo-caching experiences, this project will give our visitors a unique opportunity to enjoy great art, great food and great hospitality."*

Waterfronts: Seven new art commissions

Seaside towns are often seen as a barometer for the state of the nation and the coastline of the counties of East Sussex, Kent and Essex represents a strategic section of England's border. So what does it mean for an artist to make a site-specific piece for this context at this moment in time?

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England's Creative Coast has appointed **Tamsin Dillon** to curate a series of seven specially commissioned artworks, collectively titled *Waterfronts*, each situated on and made in response to seven places along this coastline:

- **Michael Rakowitz** working with **Turner Contemporary** in **Margate**
- **Mariana Castillo Deball** working with **Towner Eastbourne**
- **Holly Hendry** working with the **De La Warr Pavilion** in **Bexhill-on-sea**
- **Andreas Angelidakis** working with **Hastings Contemporary**
- **Pilar Quinteros** working with **Creative Folkestone** as part of **Folkestone Triennial 2020**
- **Jasleen Kaur** working with **Cement Fields** in **Gravesend**
- **Katrina Palmer** working with the Southend-based organisation, **Metal**

The artists will explore the border between the land and the waters, bringing their own knowledge, understanding and interests to reflect on the issues faced by these particular locations. The commissions will include sculpture, land drawing, painting, sound and video — all distinct works yet linked by the coastline, its people, history and future.

Tamsin Dillon, Curator of *Waterfronts* for England's Creative Coast: *"These new artworks offer fresh perspectives on the places in which they are located; each with their own layered histories and complexities. Each artist in this diverse and international group will create a new work to provoke thought and dialogue around the issues facing this border and this distinctive coastline now and in the future."*

On being commissioned to create a new artwork for *Waterfronts*, Michael Rakowitz says: *"There are many things that interest and excite me about the prospect of making a site-specific work in Margate. The history of poets and rescuers looking out at the sea for inspiration and life has informed my project, as has the fossil bearing rock of the coast, which reminds me that stone is an archive. But I am also led by urgency, of understanding what it means to be at the edge of a place, where hospitality and hostility mix."*

About the artists

Andreas Angelidakis (b. 1968, Athens) is interested in how people react to structures. His multi-disciplinary artworks try to make sense of where we are and how we got there. He lives and works in Athens.

Mariana Castillo Deball (b. 1975, Mexico City) mediates between science, archaeology and the visual arts to explore the ways in which these describe the world. She lives and works in Berlin.

Holly Hendry (b. 1990, London) makes sculptures and installations that give physical form to ideas around emptiness, edges, absence, flatness, fakes and forgeries — things that are missing and unknown. She lives and works in London.

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Jasleen Kaur (b. 1986, Glasgow) investigates the hybridity of an ongoing exploration into the malleability of culture and the layering of social histories within materials and objects. She lives and works in London.

Katrina Palmer (b. 1967, London) works with storytelling, distributing fragmented elements of narrative across found sites, audio environments, printed matter and performance. She lives and works in London.

Pilar Quinteros (b. 1988, Santiago) works across drawing, video and sculpture, often using inexpensive materials. Her practice explores how one is affected by the context of a place and shaped by its norms, often through interventions in public places. She lives and works in Santiago, Chile.

Michael Rakowitz (b. 1973, New York) reconstructs lost histories through his art, since 2006 seeking to reconstruct more than 8,000 artefacts from the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad that are missing, stolen, destroyed or 'of status unknown' following the 2003 invasion by the US-led coalition. He lives and works in Chicago, USA.

Please see the accompanying **Artists' Biographies** document for further information.

The world's first art GeoTour

Using geocaching, the GPS-enabled digital treasure hunt technology, communities from each of the seven locations are invited to share their personal stories of what it's like to live in that particular coastal place, respond to the new artwork in their town and give visitors a new way to interact with the landscape.

A group of people from each location will work with each partner arts organisation to create new caches (containers hidden within the landscape featuring rewards) that will lead visitors on a 'Geotour' of the region — the first ever art geocache tour in the world. Through gaming, travellers will enjoy an authentic experience of the place they're visiting. By working with local people, the partner galleries will connect with their communities in new ways, enabling the exploration of place and art by visitors as never before.

Art Homes

England's Creative Coast will trial a pioneering new Art Homes accommodation offer in Margate this autumn, where guests can stay overnight in a local artist's home. Here they can experience or buy art, take part in an artist-led activity, dine with local creatives or be taken on a tour of their studio.

As these exciting cultural destinations respond to the demand for hosting more and more people, the pilot will test a new kind of overnight offer, tying into the Turner Prize 2019 (28 September 2019 – 12 January 2020) at Turner Contemporary. The learnings from the pilot will inform future Art Homes across *England's Creative Coast*, offering a creative overnight trip for visitors, for the first time.

Self-build itineraries

In response to the changing way that travellers want to take greater control of planning their trip, personalising it to suit their tastes and budget and the desire to 'live like a local', *England's*

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Creative Coast offers a new website affiliated to local businesses as well as key travel operators across the region. Developed by Visit Kent, the website www.englandscreativecoast.com enables visitors to curate their own journeys, in a pick and mix style, offering a variety of cultural experiences across *England's Creative Coast*, as well as recommendations for the best food, drink and accommodation for a complete cultural travel experience.

Visitors' exploration of *England's Creative Coast* can be extended with further cultural adventures in West Sussex at **Pallant House Gallery**, **Cass Sculpture Foundation** and **Arundel Castle**, in Medway at **The Historic Dockyard Chatham**, and across Essex at **Gunners Park**, **Shoeburyness**, **Pagelsham** in Rochford, **Jaywick Martello Tower**, **Naze Tower** at Walton on the Naze, and **Harwich**.

Funding

England's Creative Coast is principally funded by Arts Council England's Cultural Destinations programme and Visit England / Visit Britain through the Discover England Fund, with support from a number of key investors, including; the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), Kent County Council, East Sussex County Council, Essex County Council, Visit Essex, Southend Borough Council, Experience West Sussex, The Historic Dockyard Chatham and Southeastern.

The investment follows the successful Cultural Destinations programme 1 project *Culture Kent*. This three-year project brought cultural and tourism organisations together to reposition Kent as the UK's creative county, through a series of pilot events and artworks. In-depth research undertaken as part of the project revealed that cultural tourists to Kent have a higher propensity to visit for longer than 'regular' tourists, generating more spend for the local economy. This research informed the planning for *England's Creative Coast*.

For further information on *England's Creative Coast*, including funding and partner organisations, please see the accompanying Notes to Editors document.

For further information about the commissioned artists, please see the Artists' Biographies document.



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