

Press Release

Terminus David Cotterrell
The Scottish Queen, Park Hill, Sheffield, S2 5QX

Preview: Saturday, 8 August 2015 : 4-7pm

Open: Every day, 9 August – 9 September 2015 : 2-6.30pm (free entry)

Artist David Cotterrell brings three site-specific artworks to The Scottish Queen in Park Hill this summer. Exploring the legacy of the Tinsley Cooling Towers site, these new works focus on the absurd beauty of infrastructure in a post-industrial landscape.

Commissioned by Sheffield City Council as an initial phase of / part of the Tinsley Art Project, 'Terminus' is supported by, S1 Artspace, Urban Splash, E.ON, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Robotics, The European Regional Development Fund and the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Filmed from the E.ON biomass power station's chimney over the course of a day, *On England's pleasant pastures seen* documents the sweeping vistas of the Tinsley Viaduct, the biomass plant local sewage works, train lines and canals that jostle for space alongside the hills of the Peak District. At 90m in the air, the view is one that would have been visible from the top of the Cooling Towers, which were demolished in 2008. Cotterrell climbed the chimney in July with a six-lens spherical camera to record the panorama of landscape and infrastructure, which is projected on a bespoke curved wall in the gallery.

Developed with the support of Sheffield Hallam University's Cultural, Communication and Computing Research Institute, *Babel* is a 3D projection of a simple closed-system created within a game engine. The work depicts an infinitely expanding highway system: as traffic increases and queues build, a viaduct is formed. Gradually slip roads are added, lanes widened and a ring road is created to alleviate pressure. Sweeping feeder lanes distribute fast turning traffic and double, then triple deck highways appear. As capacity increases, more cars are added. As more cars are added, capacity is stretched. A vertigo-inducing monument to highway geometry gradually pierces the clouds as Cotterrell's ridiculous extrapolation is rendered in real-time.

Automotivation takes its title from Sheffield-based Cabaret Voltaire's 1984 'Gasoline in Your Eye'. Produced with the support of Sheffield Robotics, the work is based on traffic 'micro-simulation' models which use parameters including Aggression, Gap Tolerance and Lane-Discipline to demonstrate how driving populations behave. Realised as database engines, these models are not neutral: they depend on programmers' assumptions and judgments and pre-suppose that smoother flowing traffic is progressive. *Automotivation* demonstrates patterns of traffic flow like phantom roadblock as a kinetic sculpture of 12m² of Scalextric-style track and 55 slot cars.

Cotterrell has invited artists Ron Wright and Michael Day to develop two new works for the exhibition, which will also include his 2001 single-channel video work, *Car Culture*. A series of events has been programmed to coincide with the exhibition including work with Tinsley Meadows Primary School and an architecture summer school as well as a day of climbing and communicating via public realm sites, which will formally launch the Tinsley Art Project, £450k Major Commission. The 'Terminus' project website will feature news and documentation of these events.

Andrew Skelton, Sheffield City Council Public Art Officer says of 'Terminus' says, "With its infrastructure both seen and hidden and both historic and contemporary the Tinsley area is crucial to the functioning of the city. David has responded to the area with artwork that offers both a resource and a challenge to those wishing to apply for this commission."

Artist David Cotterrell says, "In a way, as well as paying homage to the mathematics of artificial intelligence and mass population simulation, these projects attempt to draw attention to the fundamental gulf between macro and lived experience. The utopian visions governing city and infrastructure design offer hope, but also overshadowed the human participant's experience. Systems, which were always destined to dwarf and alienate the individual made sense on maps and the simulation engines that tested them prove their success."

For more information or press images, please contact:

Andrew Skelton, Public Art Officer, Sheffield City Council

Email: andrew.skelton@sheffield.gov.uk;

Telephone: 0114 2053784

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Note to editors:

David Cotterrell

David Cotterrell was born in 1974 in East London. He studied foundation art at St Martins College of Art & Design before going to Winchester School of Art and completing a Master's degree at Chelsea College of Art and Design. He is an installation artist working across media and technologies to explore the social and political tendencies of a world at once shared and divided. His practice is typified by an interest in intersection: whether fleeting encounter or heavily orchestrated event, Cotterrell's works explore the human condition and the breaks or nuances that can lead to a less ambiguous understanding of the world they inhabit. Encapsulating the roles of programmer, producer and director, Cotterrell works to develop projects that can embrace the quiet spaces that are the sites for action, which might (or might not) be clearly understood in the future. Cotterrell's work has been commissioned and shown extensively in Europe, the United States and Asia. He lives in London, is Professor of Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University and is represented by Danielle Arnaud. Further information may be found at <http://www.cotterrell.com/>

Tinsley Art Project

The *Tinsley Art Project link* is a major public art project in the Tinsley Locks and Blackburn Meadows area of Sheffield. Terminus is part of an initial phase of the project that explores the potential, sets the tone and raises awareness and the competition for the main commission will be launched later this summer.

There is a lot happening in the area including a new road and other infrastructure projects and the art project fits well with this regeneration helping to create a visitor attraction and destination. A Project Board, made up of representatives of the local community, industry and the arts, has been set up to take the project forward in a realistic and pragmatic way within the available budget. The project is largely funded by E.ON UK plc who pledged £500,000 to us following the demolition of the Tinsley Cooling Towers in 2008. Additional information will be published during the exhibition at <http://www.tinsley.site/>

S1 Artspace

From autumn 2015, S1 Artspace will be programming the gallery space at The Scottish Queen with a view to permanently relocating to Park Hill in the future. Established in 1995, S1 Artspace is committed to supporting and enabling artists at important stages in their career to develop and present new work and supports an active studio group of artists at all stages of practice. S1's purpose is to create an inspiring and vibrant hub for production, presentation and debate; an ambitious arts venue that actively supports and nurtures creativity, collaboration and professional development, and provides opportunities for audiences to engage directly with creative practices through participation and discussion. Further information may be found at: <http://www.s1artspace.org/>