

# DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

## The Silk Mill will host iconic poppy sculpture as part of 14-18 NOW tour

Derby will present *Weeping Window* by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper as part of the UK-wide tour of the iconic poppies. The installation will be at The Silk Mill from 9 June to 23 July 2017.

The presentations by 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, are giving people across the UK the chance to experience the impact of the ceramic poppy sculptures in a range of places of particular First World War resonance.

During the First World War, Derby Silk Mill was divided into two businesses - one grinding corn and the other making medical supplies, both integral to the British war effort and scarce by 1916. Derby as a whole played a vital part in production during the course of the First World War with Rolls-Royce developing the Eagle Engine at the request of the government to power allied aircraft. As Derby Silk Mill: Museum of Making the museum now holds a great number of industrial and social history objects which help to tell the stories of Derby's companies and its communities.

*Weeping Window* is from the installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper – by Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces. The installation was originally at HM Tower of London from August to November 2014 where 888,246 poppies were displayed, one to honour every death in the British and Colonial forces of the First World War.

Paul Cummins was born and now lives in Chesterfield, a close neighbour of Derby. Paul originally studied out of the city but returned to retrain in his true passion, Craft, at the University of Derby in 2007. After graduating in 2010, Paul has remained an advocate for the area; his busy studio is in Pride Park and he's completed a number of installations in key historic locations around Derbyshire. All the project conceptualisation for the original installation, *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*, and many of the thousands of poppies that made up the installation were created by Paul and his team at his Derby based studio.

Jenny Waldman, Director of 14-18 NOW, says, "The poppies have captivated millions of people across the UK, and we are delighted to present *Weeping Window* at the Silk Mill in Derby in 2017 as part of the ongoing tour. These are two enormously powerful artworks of national significance that continue to inspire all who see them."

Tony Butler Executive Director of Derby Museums adds, "We are honoured to be hosting *Weeping Window* at Derby Silk Mill. Many of the poppies were made in Derby and it's fitting that they will be shown here at the site of the world's first factory."

Tourist information about Derby can be found at [www.visitderby.co.uk](http://www.visitderby.co.uk).

[Ends]



Derby City Council

Derby Tourism, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby DE1 3AH

t: 01332 643414 e: [tourism.marketing@derby.gov.uk](mailto:tourism.marketing@derby.gov.uk)

facebook: [Facebook.com/VisitDerby](https://www.facebook.com/VisitDerby)

twitter: [Twitter.com/VisitDerby](https://twitter.com/VisitDerby)

[www.visitderby.co.uk](http://www.visitderby.co.uk)



# DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

Notes to Editors

## Paul Cummins

Paul Cummins MBE is a ceramic artist, internationally renowned for the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' at HRP Tower of London 2014, as well as many other installations including his work on the Cultural Olympiad in 2012. Locations for previous works include the Houses of Parliament, Chatsworth House, Althorp Estate and Blenheim Palace.

Paul was inspired to produce a ceramic poppy to honour every death in the British forces of the First World War, numbering 888,246.

## Tom Piper

Tom Piper MBE was Associate Designer for the Royal Shakespeare Company from 2004 to 2014, and was closely involved in the redevelopment of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. His theatre credits include over 30 productions for the RSC, including the award-winning History series. Other recent designs include Hamlet, King Lear (Citizens Theatre), Red Velvet (Tricycle Theatre and St Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn), Tamburlaine (TFANA New York), Pride and Prejudice (Regent's Park Theatre), The King's Speech (Birmingham Rep and Tour) and Zorro the Musical (West End and world tour). Piper's opera credits include Macbeth and Falstaff (Scottish Opera), Orfeo (ROH and Roundhouse). Tom collaborated with the British Museum and Alan Farlie Architects on the exhibition Shakespeare: Staging the World in 2012 as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Tom is a Creative Associate at the Tricycle Theatre.

His many awards include an Olivier Award (costume design) for the Histories series

### For further press enquiries please contact:

Michelle Booth

[Michelle.Booth@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.Booth@derby.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01332-643414

Maggie Tillson

[Maggie.Tillson@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Maggie.Tillson@derby.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01332-643414

### National Press Enquiries:

Erica Bolton or Lara Delaney, Bolton & Quinn

6 Addison Avenue

London W11 4QR

Tel: 020 7221 5000

Email: [erica@boltonquin.com](mailto:erica@boltonquin.com) / [lara@boltonquinn.com](mailto:lara@boltonquinn.com)



Derby City Council

Derby Tourism, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby DE1 3AH

t: 01332 643414 e: [tourism.marketing@derby.gov.uk](mailto:tourism.marketing@derby.gov.uk)

facebook: [Facebook.com/VisitDerby](https://www.facebook.com/VisitDerby)

twitter: [Twitter.com/VisitDerby](https://twitter.com/VisitDerby)

[www.visitderby.co.uk](http://www.visitderby.co.uk)

