

**Press Release:
'Shells' new film installations on display at exhibitions in Eastleigh and Farnham**

April 2017 for immediate use



Shells, unique film installations by visual artist James Paddock will be showcased at two curated exhibitions at The Production House, The Sorting Office, Eastleigh (19-24 April) and Black Box project space, UCA Farnham (7-15 June).

The two, interweaving moving-image installations celebrate uniqueness and acceptance for people who live with mental health conditions.

The first installation, entitled 'blinds', will feature footage of a young girl (Hattie Gotobed, who plays Ghita in *Game of Thrones*), and an older man (Dean Kilbey, an experienced television and film actor) debating the existence and prominence of their own "shells". This video work sees a man in dialogue with a youth about our exact moment in time. The man bridges both the analogue and digital age and also the reality before, and our current digital realities. The video itself will then be projected onto venetian blinds, which represent the fact that we view reality through our own imperfect perceptions.

The second installation, which is called 'nets', is a more direct exploration of the stigma surrounding mental illness, which looks at famous people throughout history who suffered from mental illness, featuring stock imagery projected onto ragged nets. This installation features a voice-over by Nigel Bradshaw (Dennis Cruickshank in *Prisoner: Cell Block H*).

"At the Arts Council we believe that art and culture enhance every part of our lives. They bring us joy, and help us to make sense of our own experiences and to empathise with others. So we're very pleased to be supporting Shells through our National Lottery funded Grants for the arts programme, a project that will explore new ways of presenting often undiscussed fundamental issues."

Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England

Shells is supported by Tec Hub Eastleigh and public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

James Paddock is an Associate of the Digital Arts Programme Eastleigh.

ENDS

Notes to editors

You can find out more about James and his work at:

www.jamespaddock.net

www.axisweb.org/p/jamespaddock

Tec Hub launched in April 2014 as part of Eastleigh Borough Council's growing portfolio of creative clusters that includes The Point, the West Wing and The Sorting Office. Located in a wing of Eastleigh's busy business centre Wessex House, Tec Hub supports digital and creative start-ups such as gaming and media companies, IT, video and film, app and web designers by offering an affordable space to work, meet, think, create and network.

Digital Arts Programme Eastleigh (DAPE) launched in March 2015. Located at Tec Hub, DAPE is a year-long programme that provides mentorship, business opportunities and free workspace to start-ups and individuals working in the digital tech industries.

Press contact: Kye Wilson (project manager) / 07760 483 403 / info@kyewilson.co.uk

Photos available on request.

Notable dates

The Production House, The Sorting Office
37 Wells Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5FY

Exhibition: 19-24 April – Monday to Saturday 10.30am-5pm

Private View: Friday 21 April 6.30-8.30pm

Black Box project space, UCA Farnham
Falkner Road, Farnham, GU9 7DS

Exhibition: 7-15 June – Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm

Private View: Wednesday 7 June 6.30-8.30pm

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