

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

EXHIBITION
GUIDE

BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS

BRUCE ASBESTOS

14.07.23 - 01.10.23

EXHIBITION TEXT

BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS is an exhibition at Humber Street Gallery featuring newly commissioned works by Bruce Asbestos. The exhibition is an invitation for you to enter into the world of 'Shreg' and explore the many facets of this fun and fascinating character. Asbestos' artistic approach uses playfulness as a way of generating absurd and fun combinations of objects and images, setting up unique relationships between disparate elements of personal and cultural identity.

The exhibition at Humber Street Gallery comprises three spaces for the creation of a new character: 'Shreg', a bootlegged version of the popular film character known and loved by many. Bruce Asbestos invites you to assemble the new character in Space 1, on your own or with friends, out of various facial lime green inflatable shapes and features. In Space 2, you can make your own version of 'Shreg' using plasticine and check up on Bruce's sculptural homework, seeing the combination of different famous green characters from pop culture.

'Schräg' is a German word that loosely translates as weird, fishy or skewed. We hope that our exhibition also has these *vibes*, our 'Shreg' is a celebration of everyone who feels like an outsider.

Through a series of unique artworks, the exhibition explores the concept of a new character combining the best qualities of widely recognisable green cartoon characters from popular culture, including Shrek, Yoda, the Grinch, Yoshi, and Luigi. *BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS* is a love letter to a cast of unusual and wonky green characters who use their strength, wisdom, love of adventure, sharp wit, or unwavering determination to overcome challenges and protect those they care about. Overall, *BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS* is an exciting and imaginative exhibition that creates a brand-new character in a fresh and thought-provoking way. Visitors to the exhibition will be treated to a variety of mediums, including interactive inflatables, paintings, sculptures, and mixed media pieces.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bruce Asbestos' work draws from a rich history of painting, sculpture, popular culture, folklore and fairy tales. His work frequently mixes everyday objects with high art, fashion, and responds to global pop culture. His interdisciplinary practice combines performance, painting, clothing, social media, video games, curating and many collaborations.

Witty, seductive, and extravagant; Asbestos' work feels at once both unique yet strangely familiar. His playful use of popular culture, commerce and high art puts his own personal brand firmly within the realm of participation, play and pop art. The work uses spaces such as social media, the catwalk, and virtual realities to create an accessible path through contemporary art. The works increasingly use play as a way of generating absurd, idiosyncratic combinations of objects and images, setting up problematic relationships between disparate elements of personal, cultural identity, fantasy and our collective relationship with commerce. Particularly, the work looks to make sense of the idea of national and regional identity, given we are increasingly exposed to a shared global pop culture, and prompts audiences to reflect on their own cultural experience.

Recent projects and exhibitions include, Eye of Newt 2.0 QUAD, Derby, New British Informal, Browns East, London, Burple Purple, Recent Activity, Birmingham, Ok! Cherub! Bluecoat, Liverpool, S/S 2021, Power, National Justice Museum, S/S 2020 Bonington Gallery, Bruce Asbestos X Juliana Sissons, Primary, A/W Collection, Kunstraum, London, A/W 2018 Nottingham Contemporary, Arts Council International Fund project to NYC and Philadelphia, Bruce Asbestos A-B Testing, Concrete, Hayward Gallery, London. MTN DEW, Commission by EM15 for 'Sunscreen', Venice Biennale. Ivan Poe / Reactor, Plymouth Art Weekender. He was nominated for the £300,000 Paul Hamlyn Breakthrough Fund 2013/4. Bruce Asbestos S/S 2020 is part of the Government Art Collection.

RELATED EVENTS

An Evening with Critical Fish

Thursday 27 July 2023

6:30-8:30pm

Humber Street Gallery

Free and pay what you can, booking required

Join us for an evening at Humber Street Gallery hosted by Critical Fish to reflect and unpick themes from *BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS* through discussion and activities.

Thursday Lates: Horrible House

Thursday 17 August 2023

7pm-late

Humber Street Gallery

Pay what you can, booking required

Bruce Asbestos is bringing you *Horrible House*; a night of DJs, "open" house music and a bring-your-own DIY catwalk extravaganza.

Artist Talk with Bruce Asbestos

Thursday 7 September 2023

6-7:30pm

Online

Free and pay what you can, booking required

Join artist Bruce Asbestos for an online talk as he discusses his latest body of work for Humber Street Gallery, *BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS*.

Lunchtime Tours

Last Thursday of every month

12-1pm

Humber Street Gallery

Free, no booking required

Join Programme Assistant Alexander Stubbs for an informal tour of Bruce Asbestos' *BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS*, exploring pop culture, language and play.

Access our in person and online public programme to learn more about the artist and the exhibition. You can book access all of the related activity by following the links on the exhibition page.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Holly Gibbs (Dancer)
Reece Straw (Videographer)

The *BOOTLEG SHREG & FRIENDS* soundtrack is available on Spotify, Amazon Music and most other streaming platforms.

ABOUT US

Humber Street Gallery is an Absolutely Cultured project. Originally established in 2017 as part of the City of Culture programme, it has developed into a vibrant, high-quality contemporary visual art space for Hull. It is now a significant contributor to the contemporary visual arts offer in the north.

Our ambition for Humber Street Gallery is to further develop the venue into a multi-artform and multi-functional creative centre, showcasing a wide range of art and activities providing something for everyone from visual art, dance, music to spoken word. Increasingly the space will be used to showcase more work by local as well as national and international practitioners.

CONTACT US

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Get the latest updates by following Humber Street Gallery on our official social media channels.

INSTAGRAM [@humberstreetgallery](https://www.instagram.com/humberstreetgallery)

FACEBOOK [@humberstreetgallery](https://www.facebook.com/humberstreetgallery)

TWITTER [@humberstgallery](https://twitter.com/humberstgallery)

Absolutely Cultured is a registered charity. If you would like to support our work, you can do so at absolutelycultured.co.uk.

OPENING TIMES

GALLERY

Wed – Sun: 10:00 – 17:00

GALLERY CAFÉ

Mon: Closed

Tues: 10:00 – 13:00

Wed – Sun: 10:00 – 17:00

OFFICIAL FUNDING PARTNERS

