

HUMBER  
STREET  
GALLERY

EXHIBITION  
GUIDE

# ***BYLAND'S SUPER SAGA***

Jack Pell

3.05.24 - 7.07.24

Space 1

## EXHIBITION TEXT

Byland's Super Saga is the first institutional solo show by Hull born artist Jack Pell. The exhibition draws upon the magic of everyday life across history and is born out of Pell's personal experience growing up in Hull as a working-class person and all the vibrant complexities that come with that.

Hull is often described as a city shaped by water. The artworks within Byland's Super Saga take the regions waterways; the drains, the canals, the estuary, as metaphors to explore its key themes, weaving together the recognisable, everyday aspects of a city with that which is bizarre and magical.

The exhibition is an attempt to highlight and examine the social history, folklore, industrial heritage and natural landscape of Hull and the East Riding in an imaginative way; as well as celebrate modern and unlikely aspects of popular culture such as fantasy and science-fiction, fairground art, car customisation, scarecrows and model building.

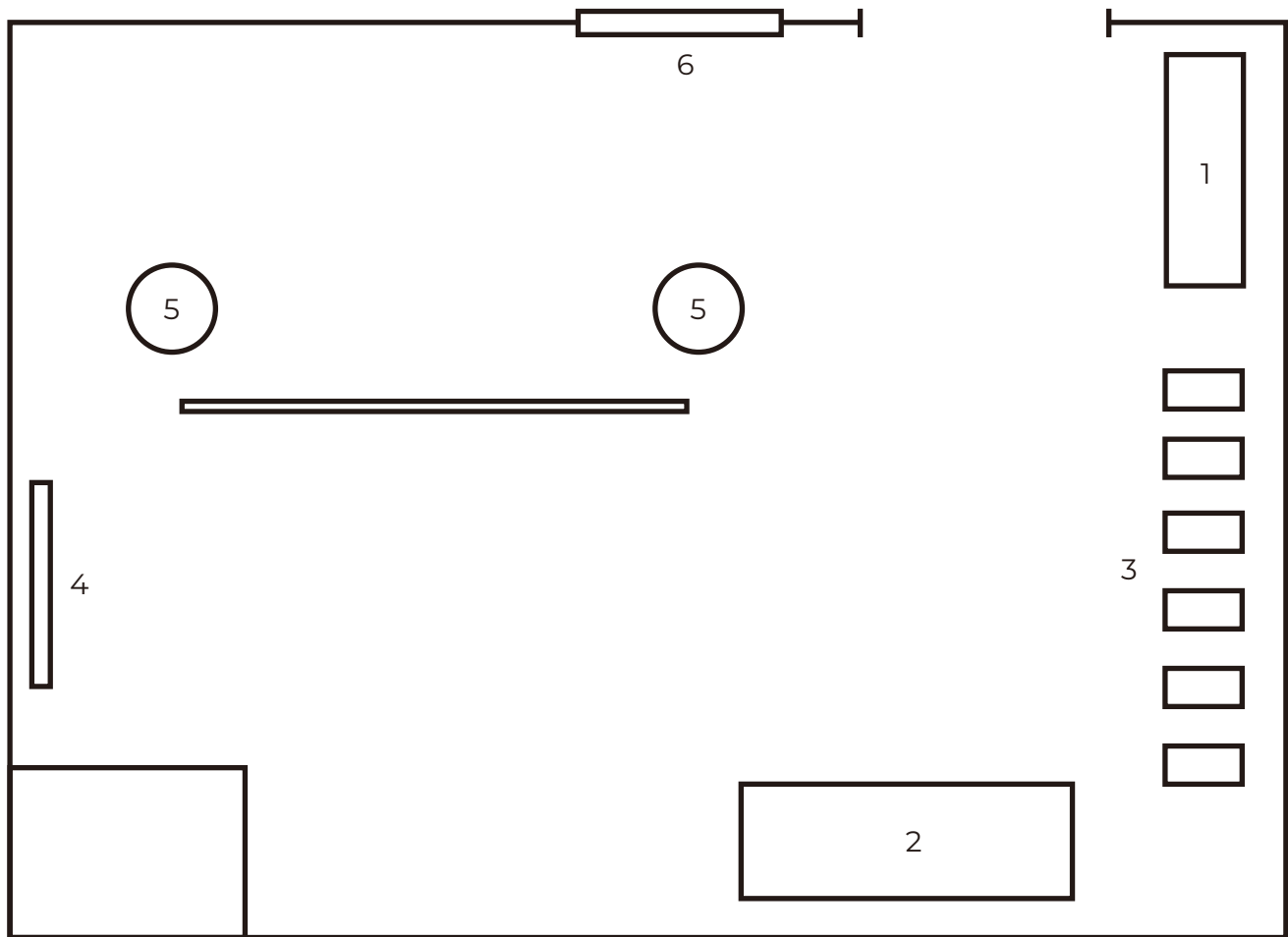
From reimagined replicas of some of Hull's cast iron bridges including Wilmington and Sculcoates, to puppets named Wyke and Grim, who take on the characterised personas of Hull and Grimsby respectively, Byland's Super Saga presents a creative interpretation of Hull unseen before.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jack Pell (b. Beverley, 1994) is an artist based in Leeds. His practice uses a variety of materials and processes, usually utilising AV elements, and is informed by his northern working-class background. His recent focus has been responding to Yorkshire's vernacular history and working-class culture, as a means of subverting the dominant historical narratives and stereotypes. His methodology draws on both history and folklore as well as the languages of fantasy and sci-fi. Using surreal imagery and satirical humour, he engages audiences in an entertaining and accessible way.

In recent years, Pell's developing artistic practice has received support from the Tetley Associate Artist Programme (2019-21), 2022 YSI Sculpture Network and the Henry Moore Foundation Artist Award (2022). His work has been exhibited in Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018, Leeds Artists Show 2023, and online exhibitions by Pavilion & The Tetley.

## WORK LIST + FLOORPLAN



## WORKS

1. **Vitrine** A selection of sketchbooks showing the development of Byland's Super Saga alongside various books of Pell's with subject matters relevant to themes present within the exhibition.

2. **DRAW** Here Pell invites visitors to the exhibition to engage in a similar creative process as his own, and think creatively about places with significance to them. The backdrop hints at the flashy and elaborate designs found on Hull Fair rides.

3. **Iron Bridges** These sculptures depict six of Hull's cast-iron bridges, two of which are no longer in existence. 3D printed and then sprayed with automotive paint to resemble customised cars. The works are a playful re-visualisation of the familiar industrial structures, while celebrating a particularly colourful manifestation of working-class culture.

Red – Sutton Road

Black/Purple – Old Stoneferry (no longer in existence)

Yellow - Railway

Pink/Green - Willmington

Green – Sculcoates

Blue/Green – Old North (no longer in existence)

4. **Fleet** The film follows a model Viking longship down the Beverley & Barmston Drain, where the only passenger on the boat - a micro-organism named the 'Erudite Blob' becomes an unexpected tour guide of the county. Meanwhile the film is bookended with scenes of Sir Dagonet (King Arthur's jester of legend) battling a sea brute with his fishing rod.

5. **Wyke & Grim** Two sculptures which personify Hull (Wyke, left) and Grimsby (Grim, right) argue continuously against a backdrop of the calm Humber. The dialogue recalls comedic medieval verse such as Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'. Resembling scarecrows, they are assembled from commonly found materials and decorated with reeds taken from the bank of the Humber.

6. **Canal Gospel Photocopies** These prints resemble the scanned pages of a book, referencing the research which goes into Pell's practice. The book however is a fabrication - the 'Canal Gospels' which is made up of cut-and-paste text and the artist's own drawings.

## RELATED EVENTS

### **Exhibition Tours**

Thursday 9 May & 27 June 2024

5:30-6pm

Humber Street Gallery

Free, booking required

Join us for a guided exhibition tour to hear more of the stories, ideas, and thoughts behind the work on display at our after-hours exhibition tours.

### **Byland's Super Screen-Printing Saga**

Sunday 26 May 2024

11am-2pm

Humber Street Gallery

Free, no booking required

Visit Humber Street Gallery between 11am and 2pm on 26 May to take part in a drop-in screen-printing session!

Local print maker Misc Print will guide you through the process of pulling your own exclusive Byland's Super Saga inspired print to take home and enjoy. The workshop is free, suitable for all ages with materials supplied.

### **Thursday Lates: Simon-Mary Vincent**

Thursday 13 June 2024

7-9pm

Humber Street Gallery

Pay what you can, booking required

In response to Byland's Super Saga, musician and composer Simon-Mary Vincent has created a new piece of work, commissioned by Absolutely Cultured, which he will perform at Humber Street Gallery.

### **In Conversation: Jack Pell with Rich & Lou Duffy-Howard**

Thursday 27 June

7-9pm

Humber Street Gallery

Free and pay what you can, booking required

Join Rich and Lou Duffy Howard, in conversation with artist Jack Pell, as the trio explore their artistic and creative interest in waterways, estuaries and the sea.

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## 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.

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## CONTACT US

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

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Absolutely Cultured is a registered charity. If you would like to support our work, you can do so at: [absolutelycultured.co.uk](http://absolutelycultured.co.uk)

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## OPENING TIMES

Mon & Tue	Closed
Wed	10:30am-5pm
Thurs	12-7pm
Fri-Sun	10:30am-5pm

### OFFICIAL FUNDING PARTNERS



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

