

PRESS RELEASE

ARTPORT 2023 | PORTISHEAD ARTS FESTIVAL

'FIELD' A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY SCULPTURE INSTALLATION FOR PORTISHEAD.



DATE: Saturday 23rd September - Sunday 24th September

WHERE: THE FOLK HALL, 95 PORTISHEAD HIGH STREET, PORTISHEAD, BS20



ARTPORT is delighted to announce 'Field' - a unique sculpture installation, with community engagement and participation at its heart.

'FIELD' by artist Hamish Young is a specially commissioned artwork created from 27,000 hand-cast plaster shells, moulded from shells collected from around the south west coastline. In this work, each shell represents a local resident - each of the 27,000 people who call Portishead 'home'.

The installation will be housed in The Folk Hall - a well recognised, accessible community space in the heart of Portishead High Street.

Hamish and ArtPort invite everyone to come together and be a part of this organic art installation. Whether you live in Portishead, or are visiting our wonderful festival, there is a shell for you to choose and take away with you to a different place, a new home. The gradual erosion of the sculpture field will be captured in stop motion film and you will become a part of the story.

After the installation, online channels of communication will be in place for people to connect and reconnect: to share their experiences of being a part of FIELD; any acts of creativity it has inspired; and even to share the new location of the shells, via geocaching software, for other people to find.

By providing online platforms and opportunities to share, we hope that the ripples of this community-inspired artwork will continue to spread out into the wider world, connecting more and more people to Portishead.

FIELD will be installed and open to visit 10.00am - 4.00pm, Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 September.

Thereafter, people around the world will be able to engage and connect online via channels made available through the ArtPort website.

ENDS

ABOUT HAMISH YOUNG

Hamish Young is a highly regarded artist who has chosen to make his home with his family in Portishead. His work is an exploration of his life and history (for more insight into this watch our ARTSTORIES film where Hamish tells his story in greater depth.

Adopted as a baby, the concepts of home, belonging, connection and the sense of 'being in between' are central to both his life and work. The act of collecting shells or stones from a beach resonates with his childhood experiences of being removed from one place and brought to another. Hamish describes Portishead as "the first place I've ever really put down roots and made connections."

Young studied Sculpture at the Royal College of Art (1996-1998). He became a Royal West of England Academician in 2021 and a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors in 2022. His work is held in the Victoria & Albert Museum collection as well as private collections in the UK and Switzerland. Young's work has been exhibited at Royal West of England Academy, Royal Academy of Arts, Saatchi Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

For more information visit: <https://www.hamishyoung.net>

ABOUT ARTPORT

ArtPort is Portishead Arts Festival: a community-focused, multi-arts event that takes place annually in the unique and historic location of Portishead, on the North Somerset coast, on the last weekend in September. This year's festival will be held on 23-24 September, 2023.

Now in our third year, we continue to grow, this year adding spoken word, community ArtWalk, a film season and much more to our roster of events.

Entirely run by volunteers, the festival and its contributors work hard to bring together a range of events and creative experiences for all age groups - a packed programme of artists, craftspeople, workshops and demonstrations, live musical performances, dance events, art trails, film and much more.

The festival takes place in the three main, central venues of Somerset Hall, the Beacon Hub and the Folk Hall, with other performances and events taking place at venues around the centre of Portishead, including: kids' workshops at Portishead Youth Centre and live musical performances in Marina Square (outside H&W). Full details will be available on our website.

- Logos and images available on request

For further information, please contact:

Contact: Mellony Taper, Marketing Director

Tel. 07595959759

Email: mellonytaper@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.portisheadartsfestival.org>