



14-18-NOW
WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS

our big picture

Release: 17th April 2023

Friends, Foes and Good Companions

Friends, Foes and Good Companions is an exciting new exhibition opening Friday 28th April 2023 at the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre. The exhibition is an IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund commission in partnership with Our Big Picture, additional support provided by Arts Council England.

Created by award winning artist Olivier Kugler and writer Andrew Humphreys, the exhibition explores relations between Grimsby and Iceland through conflict, cooperation, and fish & chips! Capturing the voices and experiences of people connected with the fishing industry. Exploring the Cod Wars through the recollections of those that lived through it. Reflecting on the impact past and present on the fishing industry, including current and former Grimsby fishermen, fish processors, fishmongers and fish & chip shop owners, Icelandic ships' crew, fishing company spokespersons, lumpers, diplomats and politicians.

Through the work we listen to former fishermen and visit fish auctions, smokehouses, Icelandic coastguard vessels and presidential residencies. Even join a catch of fish on its journey from the quayside in Reykjavik via the Vestmannaeyjar and Faroe Islands, and the port of Immingham, to a chip shop in Cleethorpes.

The work, which is largely interview-based, is presented in the form of drawings with text, like a graphic novel.

The exhibition comprises some 30 artworks, which will be shown at Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre. Selected pieces will also be displayed around Grimsby in the form of an art trail that can be followed with a specially created trail map accessed by QR code. The trail will be featured on Freeman Street, Freeman Street Market, Docks Beers and Grimsby town centre and other locations.

Alongside the exhibition, Olivier and Andrew will be working with Grimsby-based Our Big Picture, a charity delivering visual arts and heritage activities across Northern Lincolnshire, on an engagement and participation programme that includes drop-in sessions, schools, young people and family workshops.

Paula Denton, CEO of Our Big Picture said “Through this project we have made new friends from the wider fishing community and have enabled unheard voices of our industrial heritage to be heard. Together we have reflected on conflict and the tremendous comradery between Grimsby and Iceland and how today this is still built on a deep-rooted respect. This project feels like we have only just scratched the surface and at the start of an incredible journey of connection and understanding ”

Exhibition dates: 28th April to 20th August 2023

Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays 10am to 5pm

Fishing Heritage Centre

Muriel Barker Gallery

Alexandra Docks Grimsby

DN31 1UZ

The Our Big Picture commission takes place in the context of over 100 years of contemporary art commissioning by Imperial War Museums (IWM). This new initiative continues the vision and reach of 14-18 NOW, the official UK arts programme for the First World War centenary, and has been made possible thanks to the success of Peter Jackson’s critically acclaimed film *They Shall Not Grow Old*, co-commissioned by IWM and 14-18 NOW. A share of the film’s royalties – £2.5 million – will see investment in artists and arts experiences as IWM partners with over 20 cultural organisations from across the UK. The fully funded commissions will each be inspired by the heritage of conflict. The IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund commissions will go on public display across the UK from 2022.

Ends

For further press information about Our Big Picture Ltd please contact:

Paula Denton on 07793 114 180 paula@ourbigpicture.co.uk

For further press information and interview requests about the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund please contact:

Hannah Carr, Communications Manager (Exhibitions and Programming) at Imperial War Museums, HCarr@iwm.org.uk, 07581 622 157

Picture: Graphic illustrations by Olivier Kugler and Andrew Humphreys - Friends, Foes and Good Companions 'Sea Dogs'

Notes to editors

The Project

'Friends, Foes and Good Companions' is part of a larger project with the working title of 'Great British Fish & Chips'. The project uses fish & chips to investigate Britain's cultural and social history, its national identity, and issues including migration, global economics and sustainability. Work relating to this project has previously appeared in the French magazine *XXI* and Swiss journal *Reportagen*, and has been exhibited at Turner Contemporary in Margate in 2021. An exhibition is being planned for Reykjavik in September 2023, and there are hopes to take it to the Faroe Islands, Hull and Fleetwood at a later date. When complete the work will be published in a book.

Artists

[Olivier Kugler](#) is a London-based editorial illustrator and visual journalist. He is a highly skilled and passionate storyteller with a gift for words and images. He has travelled to Iran, Laos, Iraqi Kurdistan, Cairo, Ghana and many other places on assignment for a variety of publications including *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, French journal *XXI* and *GQ*. He has done extensive reporting on Middle Eastern refugees in Europe and a book collecting this work, called *Escaping Wars and Waves*, was published in the UK in 2018; it has won two major European design and illustration awards. Oli is also a past winner of a V&A Illustration Award and World Illustration Award. You can visit his portfolio at www.olivierkugler.com.

[Andrew Humphreys](#) is a writer who has lived and worked in Cairo, Beijing, Mumbai, Melbourne and the Baltic States, among other places. He has written more than 20 guidebooks to places including Siberia, Central Asia, Syria, Iran, Shanghai, Istanbul and Marrakech for Lonely Planet, National Geographic and Time Out. Now settled back in the UK he runs an independent publishing house, Paradise Road, specialising in non-fiction books about London. His journalism has appeared in the *Financial Times*, *Sunday Times*, *Observer* and *Time Out* magazine. His book on the little-known music and counter-culture scene of southwest London in the 1960s, called *Raving Upon Thames*, was published in 2022. For more information see www.paradiseroad.co.uk

Our Big Picture

Our Big Picture is an arts and heritage charity, based in a grade 2 listed building on Bethlehem Street in the old medieval market of Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire

Our Big Picture puts art and heritage at the heart of our community

- Creative workshops for all ages
- Support for artists and producers
- Ambitious exhibitions and commissions
- Community engagement
- Heritage venue

Our Arts **Our Heritage** **Our Community**

Through artists, we work inclusively with our communities to enable everyone to take part in, experience, and enjoy art at its best, resulting in the collective exploration, learning, sharing, and shaping of our home.

We deliver positive experiences where nobody is excluded, including **exhibitions in public spaces, workshops, heritage events, and online activities and art communities**. In delivering these experiences, we bring **new creative opportunities** to the area. We work with everybody, specifically, children, young people, and families, and their wider communities. We work with young emerging artists to well-established international artists.

- We **excite and inspire** the communities of North East Lincolnshire through arts and heritage projects that are open to everyone – families, children, young people, groups, and individuals.
- We **commission and support** diverse artists to create, work, and grow in the local area.
- We **work collaboratively** with local, national, and international partners to regenerate North East Lincolnshire through arts and heritage projects.

Facebook Our big picture Ltd

Twitter: @ourbigpicture #ourbigpicture

Web: www.ourbigpicture.co.uk

For more information or to arrange interviews please email or call

Paula Denton on paula@ourbigpicture.co.uk or 07793 114 180.

Elwood Cottages, 17-21 Bethlehem Street, Grimsby NE Lincolnshire DN371 1JN

Funders: National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, Architectural Heritage Fund

IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund

The IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund is a national partnership programme of over 20 commissions inspired by the heritage of conflict. Led by Imperial War Museums (IWM), the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund was created following the success of 14-18 NOW, the official UK arts programme for the First World War centenary.

To mark the end of the First World War centenary, Imperial War Museums and 14-18 NOW worked together to co-commission the critically acclaimed film ***They Shall Not Grow Old*** by Academy Award winner Peter Jackson, which was seen by nearly 5 million people globally. Following the unprecedented success of the film, 14-18 NOW and IWM agreed that a share of the film's royalties would be used to support a new programme of artist commissions, the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund. A total of £2.5 million is being made available to artists and cultural organisations across the UK.

Through the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund, IWM is now working in partnership with cultural organisations from across the UK to commission over 20 ambitious new artworks inspired by the heritage of conflict and created by world-leading and emerging contemporary artists. These new commissions will forge new opportunities for artistic engagement, bring art to audiences in new and relevant ways by connecting people, places and experiences, and kick-start cultural dialogue as we recover from the wide-reaching impacts of COVID-19. The commissions will go on public display across the UK from 2022.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/partnerships/subject-specialist-network/14-18-now-legacy-fund>

IWM

www.iwm.org.uk

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives. IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that has recently transformed with new, permanent and free Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

14-18 NOW

14-18 NOW was a programme of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the UK's official centenary commemorations between 2014 and 2018. It commissioned new work by leading contemporary artists across all art forms; the programme included over 420 artists from 40 countries, taking place in more than 220 locations across the UK. 35 million people experienced the programme, including 8 million children and young people. 14-18 NOW won many awards for its work.

14-18 NOW was supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, by the DCMS, and with additional funding from The Backstage Trust, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Clore Duffield Foundation, British Council, NatWest and support from individuals.

Arts Council England – A National development agency for creativity and culture. We want to grow skill, knowledge and networks to help establish the conditions in which creativity and culture can flourish across the country.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-creativity-and-culture>

Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre

Travel back to 1950s Great Grimsby and experience the sights, sounds and smells of one of our most dangerous peacetime occupations.

Find out what it was like to be a Grimsby trawlerman as you sign on as a crew member for a journey back to the height of UK fishing.

Visitors are given the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour aboard the historic Ross Tiger, thought to be the oldest diesel side-trawler to survive in the UK. Guided tours of this special ship, registered with National Historic Ships, give visitors the opportunity to see the conditions of life on board. They often take place with a former crew member who shares first-hand experiences of life aboard the trawler.

This Arts Council accredited museum has been awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence/Travellers Choice Award for more than a decade, including in 2022. It is also a winner of the Sandford Award to Heritage Education and the VisitEngland Welcome Award Accolade and Quality Rose Marque.

Follow Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre on social media or visit www.fishingheritage.com to find out more.