Press Release: In Solidarity – Artists from Govan to Gdansk

On this important anniversary of the Solidarity movement, an exciting artist residency project is coming all the way from Govan, Glasgow, in Solidarity, to help us celebrate here in Gdansk.

Called Riverside Solidarity, the Scottish project is a Fablevision initiative in partnership with the University of the West of Scotland, the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre, Metropolitanka, the European Solidarity Centre and the European River Cities network. Riverside Solidarity seeks to answer the question "what should be the future for our now redundant industrial heritage"? Like Gdansk, Govan’s proud shipbuilding history is now in the past. Govan has even lost its iconic cranes that defined the skyline. Local Govan people, supported by internationally acclaimed artists t s Beall, Andrew McAvoy, John Mullen, Ben Parry and Lee Ivett, are exploring what should happen next with, for example, Govan’s iconic Victorian Dry Docks. Our project and people are looking to Gdansk for inspiration and support.

The Scottish delegation will present their projects to the public and engage in live interventions between 26th August and 2nd September 2017. You can meet the artists and get involved in their work by coming to the following events:

On the 26th August, artist John Mullen will set up a display of his memorial sign design for the shipyard at the European Solidarity Centre’s event ‘Solidarity of the Everyday’ open for a public consultation and inviting people to leave a comment. The display will be located at the 3rd floor of the ESC building for a whole day on the 26th August.

Between 28th and 31st August, artist Ben Parry and architect Lee Ivett will recreate the form of a recent sculptural intervention delivered in the historic Graving Docks in Govan, Glasgow. The installation will be on a derelict site within the Gdansk Shipyard and the artists will use the act of live making and utilise found material to engage with local people and place.
On **Sunday 27th August**, **Ben Parry** will also lead the International Peripatetic Sculptors Society’s workshop at the shipyard’s premises with Gdansk residents and visitors between 10.30 and 16.00, departing from Plac Solidarnosci near the Monument of the Fallen Shipyard Workers.

On the **31 August**, artist and architect **Andrew McAvoy** will showcase his Detonation Shed’s film project (in collaboration with Kris Kesiak) to the local audience at the St John’s Centre in Gdansk

On the **2nd September**, artist **t s Beall** will lead a walk with members of **Metropolitanka** around the Gdansk shipyard area, highlighting and celebrating the use of poetry and song during the Solidarity movement. This event will also share songs and poetry from industrial actions in Glasgow. Join a poetic walk around the Gdansk shipyard between 11.00 and 13.00, departing from Gate No 2, Gdansk Shipyard.

The visit includes a two-day seminar, hosted by Gdansk’s own Baltic Sea Cultural Centre on the **31st August and 1st September**. On **31st August**, artists will present their projects followed by a guided visit around the shipyard to the sites of their interventions. Local Gdansk’s artists will join with international names to share ideas and learn from each other.

Professor Katarzyna Kosmala of the University of the West of Scotland said: ‘We are delighted Scottish artists’ projects, presentations and their live interventions in Gdansk will coincide with such important annual celebrations of the anniversary of signing the Gdansk agreement of the 31 August 1980, linking with heritage of Solidarity, in parallel with local cultural public events’.

Image: Ben Parry and Lee Ivett

For updates and more information:
**Riverside Solidarity Project:** [https://waterfrontheritagenetwork.wordpress.com/](https://waterfrontheritagenetwork.wordpress.com/)
**Metropolitanka:** [https://www.facebook.com/metropolitanka/](https://www.facebook.com/metropolitanka/)