

Press release
18 October 2017

14-18-NOW
WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS

CARLISLE CASTLE TO HOST ICONIC POPPIES AS PART OF 14-18 NOW TOUR

English Heritage is pleased to announce that it will present *Weeping Window* by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper at Carlisle Castle from 23 May to 8 July 2018 as part of the final year of 14-18 NOW's UK-wide tour of the iconic poppies.

The presentations by 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, give people across the UK the chance to experience the impact of the ceramic poppy sculptures in a range of places of particular First World War resonance. The tour has been made possible by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Backstage Trust, the Clore Duffield Foundation and the National Lottery.

Throughout the First World War, Carlisle Castle was the headquarters for the Border Regiment, one of the oldest in the British Army. The poppy sculpture will be displayed from the top of the keep, arching over the inner ward wall and cascading down into the outer ward of the castle complex, an area which incorporates the military barracks and parade ground where troops were housed and trained in preparation for front-line combat in the First World War. A total of 23,000 recruits passed through the castle during the war.

Andrea Selley, Historic Properties Director of English Heritage North says; "With the role Carlisle Castle played in the history of the north west and its extraordinary military legacy, we are privileged to host the Poppies here in Carlisle. English Heritage is truly honoured to be part of this very special arts programme and particularly to be involved in the last year of the national Poppies tour. We know that the sculptures and the ethos of connecting people with the First World War will resonate with our visitors, and these 47 days with the Poppies on site will be seen as the next chapter in Carlisle's history."

Wave and *Weeping Window* are from the installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper – by Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces. The installation was originally at HM Tower of London from August to November 2014 where 888,246 poppies were displayed, one for every British or Colonial life lost at the Front during the First World War.

Together, the sculptures *Wave* and *Weeping Window* are made of over 11,000 poppies. At the end of the tour they will become part of the permanent collections at the Imperial War Museums.

DAF Trucks are the transport sponsor for the UK presentations, and 14-18 NOW are delighted to partner with DAF on making this historic project a reality. The learning and engagement programme for the poppies tour is supported by the Foyle Foundation.

For further press enquiries please contact:

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Notes to Editors

Carlisle Castle

Carlisle Castle, with its military connections from the 11th century to today, is cared for and opened to visitors by English Heritage. A key property in the north for the charity and home to Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, the Castle is proud to host the *Poppies* in the final year of the national tour. Flowing from the top of the keep, arcing over the inner ward wall and cascading down into the outer ward, the *Weeping Window* sculpture will allow visitors to see the structure from below for the first time.

In World War One, Carlisle Castle provided an HQ for the Volunteer Training Corps, accommodation for the Labour Corps, and was HQ for the King's Own Royal Border Regiment from 1873 to 1959. A total of 23,000 recruits passed through the castle during the First World War, with the war costing the Border Regiment nearly 7,000 lives.

The Regiment saw action in almost every theatre of war: France, Flanders, India, Burma and Gallipoli, Italy, Mesopotamia and Macedonia. Many Battle Honours were awarded to the Regiment, including five Victoria Crosses.

Carlisle Castle, Castle Way, Carlisle, CA3 8UR

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/carlisle-castle/>

Paul Cummins

Paul Cummins MBE is a ceramic artist, internationally renowned for the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' at HRP Tower of London 2014, as well as many other installations including his work on the Cultural Olympiad in 2012. Locations for previous works include the Houses of Parliament, Chatsworth House, Althorp Estate and Blenheim Palace. Paul was inspired to produce a ceramic poppy to honour every British or Colonial life lost at the Front during the First World War.

Tom Piper

Tom Piper MBE was Associate Designer for the Royal Shakespeare Company from 2004 to 2014, and was closely involved in the redevelopment of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. His theatre credits include over 30 productions for the RSC, including the award-winning History series. Other recent designs include Hamlet, King Lear (Citizens Theatre), Red Velvet (Tricycle Theatre and St Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn), Tamburlaine (TFANA New York), Pride and Prejudice (Regent's Park Theatre), The King's Speech (Birmingham Rep and Tour) and Zorro the Musical (West End and world tour). Piper's opera credits include Macbeth and Falstaff (Scottish Opera), Orfeo (ROH and Roundhouse). Tom collaborated with the British Museum and Alan Farlie Architects on the exhibition Shakespeare: Staging the World in 2012 as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Tom is a Creative Associate at the Tricycle Theatre.

His many awards include an Olivier Award (costume design) for the Histories series.

14 -18 NOW

14-18 NOW is a programme of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the UK's official centenary commemorations. It commissions new work by leading contemporary artists from all art forms. The commemorative period is marked by three key seasons - Anniversary of the Declaration of War in 2014, the anniversary of the Battle of Jutland and the Battle of the Somme in 2016, and the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018. 14-18 NOW is responsible for the UK tour of the iconic poppy sculptures by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, and '*We're here because we're here*' by Jeremy Deller in collaboration with Rufus Norris.

14 -18 NOW is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and by additional fundraising. 14-18 NOW has commissioned over 140 artworks to date that have been seen by more than 30 million people.

