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'Crown of Light' by Ross Ashton, Robert Ziegler and John De' Nero, *Lumiere* 2009
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LUMIERE ANNOUNCES BRILLIANT COMMISSIONS

Four local proposals will receive funding to produce a series of lightworks and installations for this year's *Lumiere* Festival

Artichoke, producers of *Lumiere*, are delighted to announce the final selection in the competition for local artists in this year's Festival programme. Entitled '**Brilliant**', the brand new commissioning strand offers opportunities for people based in, or originally from the North East, to develop and produce their ideas for artworks using the medium of light to be showcased at the festival. The artworks selected for 'Brilliant' are commissioned in partnership with **NewcastleGateshead Initiative** and are funded by **Northern Rock Foundation**.

Four ideas have been selected from nearly 60 proposals submitted by local artists, designers, students and the general public, following the open call for submissions earlier this year. The four proposals were chosen following a rigorous three-stage process, the final stage of which involved site visits and interviews with each of the finalists. The successful proposals were selected on their artistic merit, as well as how each would develop the skills of the artists involved. An essential consideration was the way they all specifically explore the use of light as a primary medium, rather than using it to highlight or illuminate something else.

The successful artists, all based in the North East, will form part of the *Lumiere* programme in November. They include **Mick Stephenson**, a local builder; **Dan Ziglam** and **Elliot Brook** of product design agency, **Deadgood**; **Paul Goodfellow**, a lecturer at Northumberland University; and visual artist **Bethan Maddocks** working with theatre designer and visual artist **Verity Quinn**.

The artists will spend the time from now until the festival developing their pieces, be that working with community groups, adapting their designs to fit locations available in the festival and physically testing and creating the works. They will work closely with Artichoke who will support them in their endeavour to create their lightworks for the festival. Precise details about the each lightwork will be kept tightly under wraps until the final festival programme is revealed later this year.

Deadgood

Deadgood is a successful Newcastle-based British design brand, run by Dan Ziglam and Elliot Brook, who met whilst studying Three Dimensional Design at Northumbria University. The pair deliver the 'Enterprise in Design' lecture series at Northumbria University's School of Design. Deadgood will create a lightwork inspired by a natural weather phenomenon.

Mick Stephenson

54 year-old builder Mick Stephenson, is from Durham City, and runs a small family design and build company, Mick Stephenson Building Services. Mick, whose previous experience includes working on a local music festival and a background in audio-visual manufacturing, trained in art and design at Sunderland University. He will craft a beautiful light creation out of an everyday product that gets thrown away, in its millions, every day.

Paul Goodfellow

Paul Goodfellow is an artist-designer, and runs the BA degree in Motion Graphics and Animation Design at Northumbria University. He is a practising artist, with many years experience in computer animation, and is particularly interested in the relationship between computer graphics and light. He will be developing an installation to be sited in an empty shop at a secret location within the city. Working with graduates and third-year design students at Northumbria University to help realise the piece, this lightwork is inspired by the local versus the global and will break down barriers between technology and art.

Bethan Maddocks & Verity Quinn

Bethan Maddocks, a visual artist, and Verity Quinn, a theatre designer and visual artist, are both based in Newcastle. Bethan grew up in a small village in County Durham, studied at Durham New College and Northumbria University and now exhibits and delivers art workshops around the region. She has

2/5

worked and collaborated with organisations including Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, NGI, Wildworks and Sierra Metro. Verity's roots are in Wallsend in Tyne and Wear, she has designed and worked with organisations including Northern Stage, Newcastle, Live theatre, Sage Gateshead and Enchanted Parks at Saltwell Park, Gateshead.

Both artists make work that creates immersive experiences for audiences. Together they will be working closely with specific communities in rural areas around Durham in order to uncover their hidden stories across generations. This will form the basis of their research to gain inspiration for the final designs of their lightwork.

Helen Marriage, co-director of Artichoke said: "In keeping with the wider programme of the *Lumiere* festival, almost all the local commissions are beautifully simple and original ideas. In one case, the piece was selected as a technically spectacular concept that will push the boundaries of what we know to be possible. In another, the piece will explore and portray Durham's heritage, in acknowledgement of a festival that is rich in international content but local at heart".

Carol Bell, Head of Culture and Major Events at NewcastleGateshead Initiative said, "I am delighted to have been able to work with Artichoke on the development of 'Brilliant' which is what it says on the tin, a fantastic opportunity for some amazing artists working using the medium of light, from and choosing to work in the North East to showcase their work on an national level.

"It has been a truly enlightening process, we have seen some amazing ideas and innovation, the chosen four have been selected both for the quality of their work, but also for the ability for the individuals to extend and develop their own artistic practice. I am extremely proud of the quality of all the proposals we received and of the shortlist. I am sure that the tens of thousands of people from the North East who see the results will have a great sense of pride in our creative achievements."

Lumiere has been commissioned by **Durham County Council**, and is supported by **Arts Council England**. In 2009, the inaugural edition of *Lumiere* drew an estimated 75,000 people into the city over four nights, and generated some £1.5million for the local economy. *Lumiere* will return to Durham in November 2011 to showcase all the possible uses of light that artists can imagine. Festival producers Artichoke have travelled the world to find the most exciting and innovative installations and performances for the city's audience. Witty, playful and imaginative - the festival aims to delight and surprise its audience and to stop people in their tracks.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said, “The selection of proposals for the local element of *Lumiere* is another milestone on the exciting journey towards this year’s festival, which promises to leave a lasting legacy for our community and economy. ‘Brilliant’ offers a fantastic platform for local artists to showcase our regional talent and creativity to a wider audience as part of a world-class international festival. It will enable the selected artists to further develop their knowledge and practice, with the support of the professional Artichoke team, and will bring benefits to the local communities with whom many of the artists will be working”.

Earlier this year, event producers Artichoke announced that it had made a successful bid to the European Union for a three-way collaboration involving *Lumiere*, and light festivals in Poland and Estonia. This is the first time that County Durham is to receive funding from the European Commission’s Culture Programme. The EU funding, together with a substantial grant awarded by Arts Council England, demonstrates the power of cultural events to attract inward investment and build local economies.

EDITORS’ NOTES:

Lumiere

Lumiere was created by Artichoke in 2009 and generated around £1.5million for Durham’s economy. It was commissioned by Durham County Council, and is supported by Arts Council England. It followed the success of Durham’s own light festival, *Enlightenment*, featuring outdoor arts installations by Asian and British artists and inspired by the county’s religious and industrial heritage in 2008.

Durham County Council (DCC)

Durham County Council is the fourth largest unitary council in the country, and the largest in the North East, serving a population of approximately 500,000 people. Artichoke has been commissioned to design, produce and deliver the *Lumiere* festival on behalf of DCC, working with local partners including Durham University and Durham Cathedral. durham.gov.uk

Artichoke

Producers of extraordinary live events, Artichoke is one of the country’s leading creative companies and is a registered charity, funded by Arts Council England. Artichoke works with the best creative minds to produce extraordinary shows that live in the memory forever. Productions have included Royal de Luxe’s *The Sultan’s Elephant*, which filled the streets of London for four days in 2006; *La Machine*’s 50-foot high mechanical spider for Liverpool’s Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008; Antony Gormley’s 100-day long invasion of the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in London, *One & Other*; and Paul St George’s *The Telectroscope*, which allowed people in London and New York to communicate with each other by means of a hitherto undiscovered transatlantic tunnel. They produced the first edition of *Lumiere* in Durham in 2009. artichoke.uk.com

NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI)

Newcastle Gateshead Initiative is a public-private partnership supported by Gateshead and Newcastle City Councils working with 170 private sector member organisations across NewcastleGateshead and the wider North East region to promote NewcastleGateshead as a world-class destination. NewcastleGateshead Initiative has developed huge expertise in the development, delivery, marketing and promotion of festivals and events as a foundation to its

destination marketing. Its Culture Team develop, produce and market high quality events such as the Winter Festival, EAT!, NewcastleGateshead's Festival of Food and Drink, Juice, the Children and Young People's Festival, as well as continuing to develop and deliver opportunities that will arise from future initiatives such as the London 2012 Olympic Games. NGI has teamed up with Artichoke as it is keen to develop creative capacity in NewcastleGateshead and the wider region. NewcastleGateshead.com

'Brilliant'

The artworks selected for Brilliant are commissioned in partnership with NewcastleGateshead Initiative and are funded by Northern Rock Foundation. 'Brilliant' is a new strand within the festival, which called on artists based in or originally from the North East of England to submit proposals for a number of commissions available for 2011. The proposals selected for commission were chosen by a panel made up of Artichoke co-Director Helen Marriage; NGI Head of Culture and Events, Carol Bell; Kate James, Cultural Planner Festival Durham; Hannah Standen, Associate Producer, Artichoke; Anna Cook, Communications Associate, Artichoke; and Martin Warden, Technical Director Hi-Lights.

The European Commission's Culture programme

The Culture programme (2007-2013) aims to achieve three main objectives: to promote cross-border mobility of those working in the cultural sector; to encourage the transnational circulation of cultural and artistic output; and to foster intercultural dialogue.

The main focus of the programme is on co-operation projects involving at least 3 partner organisations from at least 3 different eligible European countries. The programme has been running since 2000 and was renewed in 2007. There is an annual call for applications across several strands, such as co-operation projects, literary translation, networks, festivals and others. The European Capitals of Culture initiative and several European awards are also run by the Culture programme. Information on the Culture programme can be found on the Cultural Contact Point website <http://www.culturefund.eu> as well as on the EU Commission's website http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc411_en.htm

Arts Council England

Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2008 and 2011, Arts Council England will invest £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. Further information: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk>

