

Dryden Goodwin *Poised*:

Ferens Art Gallery, Hull

10 May – 29 June 2014

Press Release: Tuesday 29 April, 2014

As the cyclists begin The Grand Depart of the 2014 Tour de France tensions are high, and much like all athletes about to launch themselves over the start line, relying on a background of intense physical and mental preparation is essential. Dryden Goodwin's film 'Poised' explores the theme of sporting excellence and the physical and emotional demands of being an athlete, in particular, a diver. The film follows a group of young female divers in their day-to-day routines, and evokes the sheer hard slog of the divers' repetitive, relentless and demanding training sessions; providing a powerful expression of the determination and perseverance required to perfect the grace and beauty of each dive. Portraying the girls on their own, interacting with each other, and under the rapt, imploring gaze of their coaches, Goodwin's camera combines extreme close-up with oblique detail to illuminate their intensity of focus and their idealisation of grace and flow.

Dryden Goodwin commented: 'It was a privilege observing these elite, young divers in their training, devoted to achieving the perfect dive with such intensity and tenacity. I wanted *Poised* to distill the poetry and poignancy of their absorbing endeavour and each plummet into darkness. I'm delighted that *Poised* will be part of the festival.'

The exhibition at the award winning Ferens Art Gallery in Hull, UK City of Culture 2017, presents a fresh context for the video installation, which was originally commissioned and presented by Film and Video Umbrella and De La Warr Pavilion at the time of the London 2012 Olympics.

Kirsten Simister, Curator of Ferens Art Gallery said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to work with Film and Video Umbrella, and we are delighted to be the only venue in the East to have benefitted from Yorkshire Festival funding."

Alongside the exhibition, Hull's Heritage Learning has commissioned a photographic artist to work with a community group on a creative response to *Poised*, focusing on the concept of True Grit and sport's impact on physical and mental health. The group will explore themes in the work that resonate with their own lives, culminating in an exhibition at the Ferens Art Gallery from the 12 – 20 June 2014. In addition, a free downloadable resource (Key Stages: Foundation to KS5) has been created by CAPE UK with Heritage Learning to accompany the installation of 'Poised'. This has been made possible through the DepARTures project by CAPE UK which is part of Yorkshire Festival 2014.

Yorkshire Festival 2014 is the first ever arts festival to precede the Grand Départ in its 111 year history. Nearly 50 events have been selected to be officially part of Yorkshire Festival 2014, which will also include hundreds of fringe events.

More info: <http://www.fvu.co.uk/programme/detail/poised-yorkshire-festival>

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Notes to editors

'**Poised**' was originally commissioned and curated by Film and Video Umbrella with De La Warr Pavilion. Supported by the Wellcome Trust and Arts Council England.

Dryden Goodwin is an internationally acclaimed artist working in drawing, installation, video, photography and sound. Major projects include 'Linear', 2010 and 'Breathe', 2012. His work is held in the collections of the Tate and The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Ferens Art Gallery is a free Gallery located within the city centre in Hull, the UK City of Culture 2017. Visitors can discover old masters, explore modern painting and sculpture and investigate contemporary art through collections and exhibitions spanning the Fifteenth Century to the present day. The Ferens Art Gallery is home to works of art of international significance from Frans Hals and Antonio Canaletto to Barbara Hepworth and Eduardo Paolozzi. Ferens holds a regular programme of events and changing exhibitions, meaning there is always something new to explore.

Free admission

Opening times:

Monday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Sunday: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Kingston-upon-Hull, HU1 3RA
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Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, Film and Video Umbrella has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. Visit www.fvu.co.uk, [Film and Video Umbrella](#) on Facebook or follow [@FilmVidUmbrella](#) on Twitter.

Heritage Learning uses heritage and the arts as a vehicle to engage children and young people in learning, enabling them to develop and grow into confident, skilled, creative and culturally aware individuals. Working with primary and secondary schools, colleges, youth groups and young people, to inspire young minds through creativity. www.heritage-learning.com

Yorkshire Festival 2014 is the first ever arts festival to precede the Tour de France, the world's biggest annual sporting event. Yorkshire Festival 2014 will run from 27th March to the 6th July 2014. Yorkshire Festival 2014 is backed by Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Water and the Arts Council England as well as Local Authorities across the county. Visit <http://www.yorkshirefestival.co.uk>, Yorkshire Festival on Facebook or follow Yorkshire Festival 2014 on Twitter - YFest2014

