

# Liverpool Biennial

PRESS RELEASE

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## LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL AND ROYAL ALBERT DOCK ANNOUNCE MAJOR PROJECT FEATURING HUNDREDS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN FROM ACROSS LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

- The project – composed of hundreds of black and white portraits of Year 6 children from across Merseyside – celebrates young people, providing them with a platform to amplify their voices.
- The free outdoor artwork, ‘Think of Us’, part of the Inside Out initiative, will be on display from 30 July.



*Credits: Inside Out Photobooth Action “11M,” Photographer: Enkrypt LA, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, 2021; Royal Albert Dock Liverpool.*

Today, Liverpool Biennial and Royal Albert Dock announce a major project featuring hundreds of schoolchildren from across the Liverpool City Region, to be unveiled in July 2026.

The monumental outdoor work, an ‘action’ presented as part of the **Inside Out Project** (a global participatory art initiative founded by French artist JR), will be presented at Royal Albert Dock from 30 July. Titled ‘Think of Us’, the piece will be composed of hundreds of black and white portraits of Year 6 children from across Merseyside, printed as posters and pasted around the perimeter of the dock at water level. An audio accompaniment and online learning resource, which invites every Year 6 pupil in Merseyside to participate from home or in school, will also be presented alongside the work. Both will be available on [biennial.com](http://biennial.com).

Throughout May and June, the Liverpool Biennial team will be working with educational partners across six boroughs, supporting the engagement of children across a broad range of schools and other educational settings, empowering them to

explore how they interact with and understand the world. Workshops will focus on three core themes: 'Portraits and Identity', 'Reclaiming Public Spaces' and 'Art and Social Change'. Following the workshops, each child will have their portrait taken and will be invited to record a short verbal response, which will be used to create the audio element of the artwork.

The project has been devised to empower the region's schoolchildren who, at the transitional stage of Year 6, are starting to seek out more independence and develop self-awareness ahead of moving on to secondary school.

**Dr Samantha Lackey, Director, Liverpool Biennial,** said:

"We're proud to be partnering with Royal Albert Dock to present this striking artwork that creates excitement, drives visitors to the area, and enables children from across the region to see themselves at the heart of their city.

We know that across the region, our children and young people experience significantly higher levels of deprivation and child poverty compared to the national average, which presents challenges for their development. We believe that this 'action' – part of the Inside Out Project, will give the children involved the agency to articulate their hopes and aspirations for the future."

**Helen Legg, Director of Tate Liverpool and Chair of Royal Albert Dock,** said:

"JR's Inside Out project has already inspired over half a million people across the world and we are excited to be collaborating with the Biennial to bring it to the City Region.

The Dock will be a stunning environment to show the portraits created by the school children, and it will be wonderful to see and hear them take over one of Liverpool's iconic locations. Liverpool is renowned for its public artworks, and I'm sure this larger-than-life installation will inspire the young people and visitors in equal measure."

Further details on the project will be announced when it is unveiled in July.

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Liverpool Biennial, which will be informed by perspectives and experiences of childhood and youth in Liverpool and across the world, will take place 5 June – 12 September 2027, co-curated by Aimee Harrison and Lucía Sanromán.

Liverpool Biennial is supported by Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and founding supporter James Moores.

**Ends.**

**Notes to Editors:**

'Think of Us' at Royal Albert Dock  
From 30 July 2026  
[www.biennial.com](http://www.biennial.com)

**Social Media:**

Join the discussion online at:  
Instagram [@liverpoolbiennial](https://www.instagram.com/liverpoolbiennial)  
TikTok [@liverpoolbiennial](https://www.tiktok.com/@liverpoolbiennial)  
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**Press enquiries:**

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**About Liverpool Biennial**

**Liverpool Biennial**, established in 1998, is the UK's largest free festival of contemporary visual art. Taking place in historic buildings, unexpected spaces and art galleries, the Biennial has been transforming the city through art for over two decades. A dynamic programme of free exhibitions, performances, screenings, community and learning activities and fringe events unfolds over 14 weeks, shining a light on the city's vibrant cultural scene.

Since its inception, the Biennial has commissioned over 400 new artworks, presented work by over 590 leading artists, delivered 39 collaborative neighbourhood projects, and received over 50 million visits. Permanent public artworks commissioned by Liverpool Biennial include 'Ngialibalibade – to the Lost Myth' by Eleng Luluan (2023), 'Liverpool Mountain' by Ugo Rondinone (2018) and 'Everybody Razzle Dazzle' by Sir Peter Blake (2015).

**About the Inside Out Project**

**The Inside Out Project** is a global participatory art project that allows everyone to share their untold stories by creating a work of public art. Participants express their message by displaying large-scale black and white portraits of members of their community in public spaces. Through their Actions, communities around the world can stand up for what they believe in and spark global change locally. Since 2011, more than 600,000 people spanning across 154 countries and territories have participated in the Inside Out Project. Thanks to participants' donations, the project has reached all of the continents, with over 2,800 Actions created. Inside Out Actions have revolved around a range of topics such as diversity, community, feminism, racism, climate change, education, children's rights, and art. These installations are documented and shared online. For more information visit [www.insideoutproject.net](http://www.insideoutproject.net).

**About Royal Albert Dock Liverpool**

**Royal Albert Dock Liverpool** is home to the largest group of Grade I listed buildings in the country and is located on Liverpool's iconic waterfront, having been awarded its Royal status in June 2018. From the pioneering spirit of civil engineer, Jesse Hartley, Royal Albert Dock is credited as being a catalyst for regeneration and change in Liverpool's fortunes in the 1980s and continues to be a symbol of progression to this day.

Today, over six million people - from locals to national and international visitors - visit the dock every year to discover, explore and experience a mix of culture, food, shopping and events. Home to some of Liverpool's finest independent and well-established businesses, the dock's commitment to being progressive and ever-evolving ensures that it remains a must-visit attraction for visitors, and a cherished destination by locals. For more information, visit [www.albertdock.com](http://www.albertdock.com).

## Liverpool Biennial Funders:

### About Arts Council England

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. Between 2023 and 2026 we will have invested over £467 million of public money from Government, alongside an estimated £250 million each year from The National Lottery, to support individual practitioners, arts organisations, museums and libraries, and to help ensure that people in every part of the country have access to culture and creativity in the places where they live. Visit [our website](#) to learn more about our work.

### About Liverpool City Council

**Liverpool City Council** is one of the largest local authorities in the UK serving a population of 491,500. Culture Liverpool is the city council department which aims to maintain the city's reputation as a cultural and sporting destination, positioning Liverpool as the most exciting place in the UK in which to live, visit, work, study and invest. Through the production and delivery of events, and championing creativity via funded projects across Liverpool City Region, Culture Liverpool pushes boundaries and inspires audiences, ensuring everyone has access to arts and culture. For more information, visit [www.cultureliverpool.co.uk](http://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk).



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