***Hadleigh in Place -* Hadleigh, Essex**

*Hadleigh in Place* is a year-long, multi-disciplinary arts programme which aims to reveal and re-imagine the unusual, personal and special characteristics of Hadleigh and its environs. The project seeks to capture and express the unique nature of place through five artists’ residencies and commissions. The programme is supported by Arts Council England and Essex County Council.

Hadleigh Old Fire Station (HOFS) will host a series of events as part of the project:

***HOFS-Centric***

The Fire Station’s former training tower will become a temporary art installation for six months from May 2013

***Citadel Screenings***

A programme of film screenings which will include the first screening of LEAD/LIGHT a film by Mat Do commissioned for the project.

Thursday **2**, **9** and Friday **24 May** 2013 – full programme schedule to be confirmed

***Hadleigh in Place***

A weekend of artist presentations and planned activities.

Friday 24 and continuing through Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May 2013 – programme details and times to be confirmed

All of the events and activities are free but booking is essential.

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***Soft Geology -* interpreting landscape through walking**

Simon Callery’s work examines the relationship between the landscape and geology of an area through walking, responding to place and landscape as a physical entity – through geology. The artist’s investigations examine the impact of geology on art making.

Geologists from the Essex Rock and Mineral Society will lead two walks with the artist on **Saturday 25 May** – one around Hadleigh Country Park, and a second through historic woodlands that surround Hadleigh. The encounters and experiences of the walks will encourage participants to think about the landscape in a different way, and how underlying geology is marked by features on the surface both in the natural and urban landscape.

***LEAD/LIGHT -* artist’s film**

Mat Do, a local artist is making a short film entitled *LEAD/LIGHT* to be screened in two parts.

The film looks to the inherent symbolism embedded within the Thames Estuary, the strong links between South Essex and the east end of London and the major influence that aspirational migration has had and continues to have within sculpting the region’s collective consciousness and its own psychological topography.

Within the film, the artist references his own adolescent experience of the landscape of Hadleigh, Thundersley and Leigh-on-Sea placing particular emphasis on the disenfranchised teenage pursuit of a sense of place and identity and the modes of expression that are employed to discover it.

Both parts will be screened sequentially as part of a series of film nights at HOFS that will include artists’ documentaries and feature films relevant to South Essex.

***Estuary: working lives –* a writer’s residency**

Rachel Lichtenstein, a writer based in Southend, reveals the lives of people associated with the Thames Estuary and the South Essex shoreline. This cross-disciplinary response to the landscape of the Thames Estuary as experienced from the water will witness the writer make several journeys along the Estuary between Tilbury and Shoeburyness in many different vessels from a kayak to a container ship and a Thames Barge.

An essay and texts together with photographic portraits by photographer James Price will be presented digitally with sound. Rachel will also give a voice and image performance at HOFS.

***HOFS-Centric –* commission for a temporary art Installation at HOFS**

Damien Robinson, a Southend based artist, is commissioned to create a temporary art installation. HOFS’ former training tower will serve as a beacon to the centre’s development as artists’ studios and community facilities. The artist will dress the tower in over a thousand recycled CDs, collected from local groups and individuals into which patterns will be worked drawn from local references and walking routes in and around Hadleigh.

The artist suggests the artwork on the tower, an island between the two sections of the A13 London Road, will be a visual reference point for the town, alluding to the towers of Hadleigh Castle, which acted as a beacon to ships approaching London. The artwork will be illuminated at night, emphasising the contrast between light and dark of the CD patterning, and helping to create a cultural focus for Hadleigh Old Fire Station. The installation will remain for six months.

***An Echo.* – commission for an artist’s interpretation and documentation**

Sue Willis, a local artist based at HOFS, is commissioned to create an artistic interpretation and documentation of the project as a whole and is undertaking an artistic reportage. Drawing upon Hadleigh’s strong associations with print media, the artist will create a limited edition printed newssheet.

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Hadleigh Old Fire Station, High Street, Hadleigh, Essex. SS7 2PA

Hadleigh Old Fire Station (HOFS) was refurbished and re-opened in 2011 ahead of the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games. The de-commissioned fire station is now a vibrant and well-used community hub and home to twenty-one resident artists and a base for three community groups. HOFS is managed by [ACAVA](http://www.acava.org), an arts education charity, and has been developed by Essex County Council with the support of Castle Point Regeneration Partnership. More information about the venue can be found at [www.hofs.org.uk](http://www.hofs.org.uk)

For more information about the project and to book contact Ben Eastop, Estates and Regeneration Manager, ACAVA:

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