

Design Statement



Background

PHM is the home of ideas worth fighting for – where our radical past can inspire and motivate people to take action – to shape a future where ideas of democracy, equality, justice and co-operation are thriving. 2019 marks 200 years since the Peterloo Massacre, a major event in Manchester's history, and a defining moment for Britain's democracy.

To commemorate this monumental anniversary, the People's History Museum (PHM) will explore the changing face of protest: past, present and future through a year-long programme of events, learning programmes and exhibitions exploring creative disobedience and its role in today's ideas worth fighting for. This programme of activity will be co-curated with marginalised and underrepresented communities in the spirit of those who gathered at Peterloo.

The Artwork

The mural art piece will be inspired by and to commemorate the Peterloo Massacre just a short walk away from the building almost 200 years ago, Axel Void's proposed artwork attached via a photoshop projected image. We believe it will be a great way to raise awareness of the heritage stories in Manchester, raise the profile of the museum (particularly with new and younger audiences) and also deepen our engagement with local community groups.

The artwork will be a temporary display at People's History Museum, to compliment the museums programme approach over the next 36 months. The artwork removal will involve re-rendering the wall to protect the heritage asset (subject to funding), or re-painting the wall a plain off-white colour.

The Artist

Axel Void (Alejandro Hugo Dorda Mevs) was born in Miami in 1986 to a Haitian mother and a Spanish father. He was raised in Spain from the age of three, where he was strongly influenced by classical painting and drawing. Axel Void has been in contact with graffiti writing since 1999. He studied Fine Arts in Cádiz, Granada, and Sevilla, and based himself in Berlin until moving to Miami in 2013, where he currently resides. He is regularly referred to as Banksy's artist of choice and of international renown. His website is <http://axelvoid.com/>

This artwork will be facilitated in collaboration between PHM and Cities of Hope: Developed in Manchester, England, Cities of Hope deliver our activities in communities across the world, working alongside internationally renowned artists and grassroots organisations; **they use the arts to raise awareness and inspire action on the social issues** that define our time. Axel Void is a patron of Cities of Hope.