

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

Humber Street Gallery presents Sightseers by Luke Routledge



**Exhibition Launch
Thursday 15 January 2026, 6-9pm
Humber Street Gallery, Hull.**

Print and broadcast media are invited to contact bronte.teal@absolutelycultured.co.uk with requests for interview.

- A major new solo exhibition by Birmingham-based artist Luke Routledge, presenting an ambitious body of sculptural work that blends digital processes with hands-on making.
- Exhibition Launch: Thursday 15 January 2026, 6-9pm at Humber Street Gallery.
- Exhibition Dates: Friday 16 January 2026 – Sunday 3 May 2026.

Humber Street Gallery is pleased to present *Sightseers*, a newly commissioned exhibition by Birmingham-based artist Luke Routledge, opening in January 2026. The exhibition brings together an ambitious new body of sculptural work and marks an important moment in Routledge's evolving practice.

Sightseers invites visitors into a world that is still being formed. Across the gallery, larger-than-life, multicoloured figures gather, each built from fragments, layers and surfaces that feel assembled rather than finished. Routledge combines digital sculpting and 3D printing with paint, resin and found materials, treating technology as just one part of a hands-on, exploratory making process. The result is a series of works that feel provisional and alive, suggesting identities that are fluid, shifting and open to change.

Rather than offering clear answers or a fixed narrative, *Sightseers* asks audiences to stay curious. This is a place where imagination does the work, where visitors are encouraged to look closely, make connections and spend time with forms that resist easy definition. The exhibition offers an invitation to step away from the everyday and into a speculative space built from parts, possibilities and playful experimentation.

This exhibition is Routledge's most ambitious project to date, expanding the scale and complexity of his work while remaining rooted in material exploration and world-building. *Sightseers* is accompanied by a public programme of events, activities and workshops that offer different ways to encounter the exhibition, ask questions and explore the ideas within the work together.

Public programme

Exhibition tour: *Sightseers* by Luke Routledge

Friday 20 February, Friday 20 March & Friday 17 April, 12-12:30pm

Join the staff at Humber Street Gallery to hear more of the stories, ideas, and thoughts behind the work on display

Ash Martin responds to *Sightseers*

Thursday 5 March, 6-9pm

Ash Martin is a multidisciplinary artist working across drawing, poetry, and performance, exploring drag for its fantastical worldbuilding possibilities.

Panel Discussion: Building Worlds with Luke Routledge and Dinosaur Kilby

Thursday 9 April 2026, 6-8pm

Artists Luke Routledge and Dinosaur Kilby explore how and why artists build worlds.

Introduction to 3D Modelling and 3D Printing

Saturday 11 April 2026, 12-2pm

Gives you a practical insight into using 3D modelling techniques to make small, physical objects

-END-

Notes for Editors

Images

Images are available upon request.

About Luke Routledge

Luke Routledge makes human-scale figurative sculptures that he presents as inhabitants of a speculative, fictional multiverse. His works are often installed as large, tableau-like groupings, creating open-ended narrative relationships between figures. Animatronic elements are sometimes incorporated to invite audience participation and bring the sculptures into motion. Alongside sculpture, Routledge works with animation, writing, drawing and painting to develop an ever-expanding fictional territory that underpins his practice.

Routledge has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally across artist-led and commercial galleries. Recent solo exhibitions include Kunsthal Gent, Belgium (2022), Anima Mundi Gallery, Cornwall (2022) and Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2020). Selected group exhibitions include macLYON, France (2024), Saatchi Gallery, London (2022), The Whitworth, Manchester (2022), The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry (2022), and Flowers Gallery, London (2022).

About Humber Street Gallery

Humber Street Gallery is a contemporary visual arts gallery in Hull, presenting a year-round programme of exhibitions and supporting activity that invites people to stay curious and engage with art in thoughtful, unexpected and accessible ways. The gallery works with artists at all stages of their careers to commission and present ambitious new work, alongside talks, events and creative activities that encourage curiosity, conversation and deeper ways of looking.

The gallery is operated by Absolutely Cultured, a charity rooted in Hull that believes creativity plays an essential role in wellbeing, connection and everyday life. Alongside its exhibition programme, Humber Street Gallery is a welcoming public space, with a café and programme of activity designed to make contemporary art feel open, relevant and part of the city's cultural life.

Absolutely Cultured works closely with artists, communities and partners to ensure Humber Street Gallery remains a place for discovery, shared experiences and creative exchange.

Media information

Bronte Teal | Absolutely Cultured |
bronte.teal@absolutelycultured.co.uk

Matt Walton | Absolutely Cultured |
Matthew.walton@absolutelycultured.co.uk