

ONWARD
TOGETHER
AS ONE

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COMMENT: Great North artwork by Northumbria students at World's most famous half marathon

Pop up art from two of Northumbria University's Fine Art graduates will be installed along the route of this year's Great North Run.

Graduate artists Hope Stebbing and Oliver Perry, will see their bold and inspiring work shown in three specific locations around the route of the run, borne out of a brand new partnership between the University and the Great North Run organisation.

The project, ONWARD TOGETHER AS ONE, which will have large sculpted letters spelling 'onward' 'together' 'as one' will be shown in three specific locations around the route of the run. Appearing on the morning of Sunday 13 September and disappearing with the 57,000 runners after the race, the artists' have taken the idea of over fifty thousand individuals moving through the course as though they were one, all connected and communicating, ebbing and flowing, moving forward together.

Oliver and Hope, the first winners of an art commission partnership between the University and Great North Run Culture, said: "This whole process has been a really exciting experience. We would really like to extend our thanks to the University for all the technical support they have given us and to everyone at Great North Run Culture."

The partnership between Great North Run Culture and Northumbria, offered a £4,000 commission to a final year or recent graduate to create a piece of work that responds to and captures the spirit of one of the World's top sporting events.

Jamie Steane, Principal Lecturer at Northumbria said: "The immediacy and spirit of Hope and Oliver's initial proposal brought a warm smile to all of the judges' faces, and that's just what you want from a piece of public art that's actively trying to engage with its audience of runners and spectators. We are now looking forward to seeing their bold, metre high, typographic messages of support for the runners installed on three great sites alongside the course."

"Working with Great North Run Culture has been a continual pleasure for both students and staff at Northumbria University. We have worked together on a number of exciting initiatives from student art commissions and film productions through to helping support Millionth Runner events last year. We are currently on a number of exciting projects and look forward agree new ones for the forthcoming years."

This summer Great North Run Culture launch their 11th year of cultural programming which is inspired by the Great North Run. Great North Run Culture explore and celebrate the areas where sport and art meet, through art exhibitions and installations, films and moving image, workshops, events and community activities they look for new ways to give a different perspective on the world's largest half marathon.

Great North Run Culture director Beth Bate, said of the 2015 programme: “This has been an incredibly busy and exciting year for us at Great North Run Culture, a brand new partnership with Northumbria University sees a pop-up art installation along the route of the Great North Run. There is certainly plenty to see in Newcastle over the coming weeks.

Northumbria University collaborates with a range of high profile cultural partners, including BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Live Theatre, New Writing North and Tyne & Wear. To find out more, visit: <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/arts/>

To find out more about Oliver and Hope’s work, visit: www.oliver-perry.com or www.hopestebbing.com

Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focussed, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. To find out more about our courses go to www.northumbria.ac.uk

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Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact
PR and Media Manager
Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences
andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk
07708 509436



James Fox

Press Contact
Student Communications Manager
james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact
PR and Media Coordinator
Arts Design and Social Sciences / Engineering and Environment
kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact
PR and Media Coordinator
Health and Life Sciences / Sport
rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk
07377422415



Ruth Lognonne

Press Contact
PR and Media Coordinator
Health and Life Sciences / Sport
ruth.lognonne@northumbria.ac.uk



Emily Morris

Press Contact
Corporate Communications Coordinator
emily.l.morris@northumbria.ac.uk