SITUATIONS

Media Release
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Arctic island to visit Torquay

NOWHEREISLAND: A London 2012 Cultural Olympiad project by artist Alex Hartley
25 July – 9 September 2012

NOWHEREISLAND is an Arctic island on the move, travelling south to visit South West England during the London 2012 Olympic Games. On its journey, this extraordinary visitor passed through International Waters and was declared the world's newest nation with citizenship open to all. Together with its land-based travelling Embassy, Nowhereisland will voyage some 500-nautical miles around England's spectacular south-west coastline calling at ports and harbours along its journey. Today, due to popular demand, a new stop on Nowhereisland's epic voyage is announced. **Nowhereisland will visit Torquay on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 August 2012**.

During its two-day visit to Torquay, the floating island will be moored south of the harbour. The best view of the island will be from Haldon Pier near 'Living Coasts'. Nowhereisland's Embassy, a mobile museum packed full of objects which tell the story of this nomadic island will be based on Haldon Pier itself. Embassy visitors will be greeted by the Nowhereisland Ambassadors who will host the Embassy, sign up citizens and run activities for all ages.

Executive Lead for Arts and Culture and Regional Arts Council Board Member, Cllr Dave Butt has said: ***"The English Riviera is gaining a well deserved reputation for hosting amazing art and we are thrilled that Nowhereisland will visit Torquay. The sight of an Arctic island in Torquay harbour will certainly attract new visitors to the area bringing a real boost to the local economy, and raising its profile as one of the cultural attractions in the South West."***

Nowhereisland, an artwork by Devon-based artist Alex Hartley, has caught the imagination of thousands of people across the world. Over 7000 people from nearly 100 countries across the world have already signed up to be citizens of Nowhereisland, contributing and voting on the world's first online constitution.

This summer ports and towns across the region will welcome the island: with citizens marching to welcome the island in Weymouth, Ilfracombe and Bristol, a male voice choir in Mevagissey, a flotilla of surfers in Newquay and a football match in Plymouth. The year-long education programme has placed Nowhereisland at the centre of the region's schools curriculum – exploring ideas of migration, citizenship and public art.

Nowhereisland will begin its South West coastal journey in **Weymouth** (25 July – 2 August) arriving for the opening ceremony of the sailing events of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The island will then travel to a further seven port towns and cities: **Exmouth** (4 – 5 August); **Torquay** (6 - 7 August); **Plymouth** (9 – 12 August); **Mevagissey** (13 – 16 August); **Eden Project** (Embassy only 17 - 18 August); **Newquay** (23 – 27 August); **Ilfracombe** (1 – 4 September); before completing its journey in **Bristol** (7 – 9 September).

Please note: dates are weather dependent. For further information on events and activities see www.nowhereisland.org.

Notes to Editors

About Nowhereisland
NOWHEREISLAND is the winning commission for the South West, part of Artists Taking the Lead, a series of 12 public art commissions across the UK to celebrate the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Nowhereisland is produced by Situations and funded by Arts Council England. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of Bloomberg, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Nicky Wilson Jupiter Artland and Yellowbrick Tracking.

About The Artist
Working primarily with photography, often incorporating it into sculpture and installation, Alex Hartley's work addresses our attitudes toward the built and natural environments. Born in 1963, Hartley lives and works in Devon, UK. A graduate of the Royal College of Art in 1990, Hartley has exhibited extensively in both national and international exhibitions at venues including The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (2007) and The Natural History Museum, London (2006). His most recent exhibition at Victoria Miro Gallery, London, showcased a new body of work 'The world is still big' www.victoria-miro.com

About Artists Taking the Lead
NOWHEREISLAND is part of Artists Taking the Lead, a series of 12 public art commissions across the UK to celebrate the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Arts Council England is delivering the project in partnership with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Creative Scotland and the Arts Council of Wales. For more information visit: www.artscouncil.org.uk

About Situations
Situations is an award-winning visual arts commissioning and publishing organisation. Established in 2002, Situations produces both permanently-sited and temporary public artworks in the UK and internationally, as well as curatorial research, public events, talks and seminars and publications. Situations is committed to supporting the production of exceptional new work and projects, often in response to a specific context, location or situation. For more information visit: www.situations.org.uk

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For more information about NOWHEREISLAND or to become a citizen visit: www.nowhereisland.org

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