



COWGATE ROUNDABOUT PAST PRESENT FUTURE

'Cowgate Roundabout: Past, Present and Future' is a new photomontage artwork created by artist Tommy Anderson. The work combines archive and present day photographs of Cowgate and the transport that has passed through the town over the years as well as images of what this might look like in the future.

Tommy worked with people of all ages from Cowgate – from year 4 pupils at Hilton Primary Academy to residents of Highmoor Court retirement home – exploring photomontage techniques and creating unique artworks reflected in the final composition.

Cowgate roundabout was originally constructed in 1966 by Newcastle City Council, during a time when there were far fewer cars on the roads and when businesses relied far less on road haulage to be competitive.

Fast forward to present day and the roundabout's infrastructure was out of date, aging and couldn't cope with levels of traffic at peak times; leading to congestion, delays and pollution. It also had a poor safety record which the council wanted to put right.

In 2015 as part of the Re-newcastle £60m of improvements to Newcastle's key junctions and highways, Newcastle City Council began a £4.3m programme of improvements to transform the old roundabout. The old roundabout and pedestrian subways were filled in with over 1,500 polystyrene blocks and replaced with a new signalised junction. Dedicated bus lanes, cycle lanes and better and safer pedestrian crossings were installed to improve road safety.

This is one of the most important junctions in the city which Newcastle City Council hope will benefit the local community as well as commuters, tourists and freight drivers for many years to come, to help keep Newcastle moving.

A copy of the artwork will be buried as part of a time capsule on the site of the roundabout, and a record of this kept at The International Time Capsule Society (ITCS), based at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, USA.

Tommy Anderson is a North East based artist and graphic designer whose practice combines typography, aerosol art, photography, visual/audio collage and music – celebrating beauty in the mundane and overlooked. He is an experienced arts facilitator and mentor, managing and delivering progressive participatory and educational arts programmes. www.baselineshift.co.uk

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