

## Stephen Friedman Gallery

Wallpaper\*

Six artists not to miss at the Liverpool Biennial

Charlotte Jansen

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Image: Cenotaph, 2018, by Holly Hendry, installation view at Exchange Flags. Photography: Pete Carr

Liverpool Biennial, the UK's largest contemporary art biennial is back for its tenth run. Spread across Liverpool and showing for 15 weeks, this year's edition is inspired by a poem – Beautiful world, where are you? – from German polymath Friedrich Schiller that dates back to 1788.

The question might be centuries old but the mood certainly isn't, and in Liverpool, the Biennial curatorial team for 2018, lead by Kitty Scott and Sally Tallant, has invited more than 40 artists from 22 countries – many of those countries in political turmoil – to reflect on contemporary crises but importantly, to also imagine a better world, one that's more beautiful.

The interpretations of beauty, of course, vary, making for a Liverpool Biennial that is both optimistic and challenging. Here are six artworks, scintillating with hope, you won't want to miss...

Holly Hendry

Inspired by 'our desire to peek under the edges of things', as the artist puts it, you won't be able to miss young London-based artist Holly Hendry's new public commission, in the U-shaped square or Exchange Flags, overlooked by Liverpool's Town Hall. The huge slices of industrial-looking pipe – made of glass-reinforced concrete – get to grips with the guts of Liverpool's grand architecture, taking inspiration from everything from the Williamson tunnels (built for land reclamation) to cast iron manhole covers and precast concrete features, all materials found in the city, if you look close enough.