Date: 17th November 2020. For Immediate Release.

The Story of Liverpool Through Its Trees – Get Involved!

We are inviting the public to create a history of the Liverpool City Region through its trees, using personal stories and photography.

Lucy Byrne from dot-art said *"Trees are the perfect vehicle through which to tell a story of Liverpool – they share its resilience, strength and its diverse and fascinating story".*

In these times of global crisis, we all benefit from taking a step back and seeing our own experiences in a wider historical context. The city and its trees have survived war, disease and many other hardships; this pandemic is just the most recent.

Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins said *"We hope the project will encourage all of us to engage with and be more aware of the trees and green spaces that enrich our lives, particularly the Urban Greenup interventions currently being introduced to enhance the city centre".*

We started by asking a broad cross section of people, from historians to tree professionals to family members, to share a story about a tree that was important to them. Eight of these were selected and Open Eye photographer Andy Yates was commissioned to produce images of these important Liverpool trees. These photographs show trees from a few years old to over 1000 years old - so already we are starting to build a picture of the trees that have affected us and our city region as it was founded, has grown, thrived, declined and thrived again. [Take a look here.](#)

Sarah Fisher from Open Eye Gallery said "*We want to celebrate your stories of trees & they will become stories of this place we live and work in. Please take a moment to share a picture of a tree that means something to you, along with a few words about what makes it important."*

Send these to andy@openeye.org.uk and your story becomes a collection!

As the weather gets colder, we all find it more difficult to get outside for our daily walk, run or cycle. Why not make finding and photographing your favourite tree a fantastic reason for the whole family to get outdoors, especially while we are in lockdown. Spending time in parks or green spaces has huge benefits for our mental health, stress levels and general wellbeing.

The Story of Liverpool Through its Trees is being delivered by Open Eye Gallery and dot-art, with support from Liverpool City Council and Mersey Forest.

dot-art and Open Eye Gallery are committed to tackling the climate emergency in practical and accessible ways and have recently achieved "climate positive workforce" status by working with Ecologi to plant hundreds of trees every year and offset the carbon footprint of our activity as organisations.

-ENDS –

For more details, please contact: Sally Slingsby, dot-art: 0345 0176660 / gallery@dot-art.com

High resolution images available on request.

Notes to editors.

dot-art supports visual artists and champions art as an integral part of everyday life.

We do this by selling locally sourced, affordable art, working with businesses to put art in the workplace and public realm, running art classes and working with schools and community groups. All this is underpinned by our unique membership scheme for artists in the North West which gives access to all the activities above and a package of support and advice, creating and developing artists' careers.

Find out more: [dot-art.com](dot-art.com) / @dotart

Open Eye Gallery SHARE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EVERYONE, WITH EVERYONE, EVERY DAY.

We're more than a gallery. We're actively rethinking what a gallery can be. We produce exhibitions, long-term collaborative projects, publications, festivals, and university courses — locally and worldwide. We welcome over 85,000 visitors to our gallery every year, over 200,000 to projects in other venues, and many more to our online spaces. We proactively take risks to spark crucial conversations and enable creative expression.

We work with people to push for social change. We're taking a lead on socially engaged photography nationally. Bringing different voices, photographers and communities together, we establish projects where the collaborative process is just as important as the final product.

Find out more: openeye.org.uk