

## **50 Cities, 50 Traces art exhibition launched in Manchester**

Manchester was the latest city to host the contemporary art exhibition '50 Cities, 50 Traces' at a special launch event in Manchester Central Library.

This art exhibition was created by the Stuttgart based artist Klaudia Dietewich and curator Raimund Menges. It commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone of the multilateral nuclear disarmament regime. The exhibition was developed in association with the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace, which is led by its Lead City & Vice President Hannover.

The artistic concept behind '50 Cities - 50 Traces' is to juxtapose individual traces from 50 Mayors for Peace cities, highlighting the diversity and beauty of these cities and the daily life taking place therein. The exhibition is conceived as an invitation to respect and preserve the world's visible remains, which are bearers of memory. It is an appeal against the destruction of our cities, against the deployment of nuclear weapons – thus supporting the core idea behind the Mayors for Peace movement: "Cities are not targets!"

The launch took place in Manchester on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City Council's famous 'nuclear weapons free city' resolution. This resolution led to the creation of the UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), which cooperates closely with Mayors for Peace. Manchester is a long-standing Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace.

Speaking at the launch of the exhibition were the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Abid Latif Chohan, Councillor Eddy Newman who is Manchester's permanent Mayors for Peace nominated representative, and the last remaining councillor on the Council who co-signed the 1980 resolution; and the exhibition curator Raimund Menges. Also speaking at the launch was theatre director Neil Bartlett, who talked about the upcoming '24 Hours of Peace'. This takes place in the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November and arises from interviews with 100 peacemakers in Britain, talking about the ways to build and renew peace in the country. Actors taking part in this production include Miranda Richardson and Toby Jones.

The '50 Cities, 50 Traces' will be exhibited in Manchester Central Library from the 5<sup>th</sup> November to the 30<sup>th</sup> January. It will then transfer on to Bristol City Hall in February. Bristol is a twin city of Hannover and also a member of Mayors for Peace.

### **Web-links:**

50 Cities, 50 Traces - <http://www.50cities-50traces.org/index-j.html>

24 Hours of Peace - <https://24hoursofpeace.co.uk/discover-100-stories/>

**Photos:**



The Lord Mayor of Manchester gives a civic welcome



Cllr Eddy Newman talks about Manchester's peace work



Raimund Menges explains the art exhibition



Neil Bartlett talks about 24 Hours of Peace



The exhibition in the Central Library including its artist Klaudia Dietewich (centre)