

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Councillor Brady, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I cannot tell you what a pleasure and an honour it is for me to have been invited to speak to you at this wonderful event today. First, I'd like to extend my congratulations to the City of Hull on a triumphant year as City of Culture. You have done brilliantly in spreading the word about what a marvellous city this is. My daughter is a graduate of this university, and let me say thank you to the deputy vice chancellor for what the university did for her.

Today we are celebrating the work of one of Britain's greatest artists. Terence Cuneo is best known as a railway artist, but his work embraced industry and technology, war and military history, state and public occasions, wildlife and portraiture. He went to enormous lengths to ensure that every aspect of his work was of the highest technical accuracy.

This exhibition is the first to bring many of these strands together under one roof –exploring the theme of Power.

It has been curated by Ian Blatchford, Director of the Science Museum Group, and Andrew McLean, Assistant Director and Head Curator of the National Railway Museum in York.

This exhibition is the Science Museum Group's contribution to Hull City of Culture 2017 – it has been produced specially for Hull.

It has taken over 18 months to produce, bringing together the significant holdings of the Science Museum Group, museums and private collections throughout the UK; many items on show here today have been in storage or are not accessible to the general public.

I have to claim a special interest in one particular painting: that of Sir Winston Churchill's Lying in State in Westminster Hall, which is part

of the House of Lords art collection, as I persuaded the Lord Speaker's Works of Art Panel to lend it specially for this exhibition.

Up to now it has hung in the Churchill Dining Room in the House of Commons. It was a very personal tribute – on the spur of the moment, Cuneo obtained a special entry permit from the Earl Marshal for permission to draw. He sketched intensely for thirty seconds in each half-hour when the queue was halted for the changing of the Watch, the result being this sombre but magnificent study.

The Science Museum Group would like to extend their deepest thanks to all those organisations who have loaned their works, starting with Hull City Council whose painting of Her Majesty the Queen departing the Corporation Pier at Hull. It normally hangs in your Guildhall and was the start and inspiration for getting together the exhibition.

Thanks too to Doncaster Heritage Services, who have loaned the magnificent painting of 'Giants Refreshed' and kindly allowed us to use this as the lead image on all promotional material for the exhibition, and to

National Archives, Kew  
Imperial War Museums  
The RAF Museum and the Royal Aero Club Trust  
National Museums Scotland  
The Royal Logistics Corps  
Guildhall Art Gallery, City of London.

And last, but certainly not least, Carole Cuneo who has loaned personal items such as her father's childhood drawings, and who has offered kind and insightful support throughout the whole project. I met Carole for the first time at the Science Museum Director's annual dinner, and I am delighted to hand the microphone to her now.