

KATE MACGARRY

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Flags flies high for Edinburgh art lovers despite lockdown

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Peter Liversidge's *Flags for Edinburgh* sees white flags with "HELLO" written on them flying from a number of sites

STUART ARMITT

Faced with the news that the capital would be without festivals for the first time in more than 70 years, the organisers of the Edinburgh Art Festival formulated a plan. They decided that the best way to connect this month would be to revisit the work of artists whose previous contributions had a new resonance. Finding novel ways to communicate and be together is a key theme in much of their work, which is being shown to mark the dates of what would have been the festival's 16th year.

All the art chosen — from ten artists in total — can be seen for free online and some will also be in evidence around the city. One example is Peter Liversidge's 2013 *Flags for Edinburgh*, which

involved – and will again – white flags with “HELLO” written on them flying from a number of sites, including official and civic buildings and community spaces. Sorcha Carey, the director of Edinburgh Art Festival, says: “It’s attempting to express how we’re all trying to find ways to retain a sense of connection and intimacy at a time when we have to keep physically distant from one another. Peter is inviting us all, as residents of the city, to say ‘hello’ to each other and the wider world, as well as returning the flag to a very simple way of communicating saying ‘hello’ across the rooftops.” He is also developing a “light-touch performance” involving people carrying the flags at Juniper Artland and other spaces.