

'OUT OF ORDER'
we apologise for any inconvenience....

An intervention by Tony Heaton & Terry Smith

'OUT OF ORDER' shines a spotlight on break-down, barriers and dysfunction.

We chose the BALTIC because we really love this gallery, we like the position of the lifts, highly visible, but...

They are inadequate in number, they are unreliable, they break down too often. This is not unique to the BALTIC, they are brave enough to acknowledge it, but it happens in very many public art galleries and other public-facing buildings all the time. It's an issue that does not get recorded or raised, we think because it mainly only has a negative effect on those with the quietest voices and the least power. Disabled people.

Many disabled people and all wheelchair-users rely on Lifts to access public buildings like publicly-funded art galleries such as the BALTIC.

Non-disabled people never have to think about or worry if lifts are out of order, being serviced or even being full, they can use their freedom of choice to take the stairs. Disabled people can't and rely on lifts being sufficient in number and in full working order... BUT, often this is not the case, lifts are very often out-of-order, this is stressful and more than inconvenient for disabled people who want to enjoy the experiences everyone else takes for granted.

There are around 15 million Disabled People in the UK, around 20% of the population.

Many families with prams and buggies, young children and elderly people rely on lifts for easy access add these to the numbers of disabled people, it's a big issue.

So why is it that architects routinely fail to provide adequate lifts into public buildings?

Why do public-funders give tax-payers money to schemes that do not give full and adequate access?

When it's obvious that lifts break down, need servicing and have a limited life-span do public facing buildings like the BALTIC have to put up with old, out-dated and frequently out-of-order lifts which inconvenience many?

Why are lifts commissioned from makers who are thousands of miles away and it takes months for many of the spare parts to arrive, a cheap install but an expensive on-going problem in the long-term, a false economy that many commissioners don't realise at the time of construction but will come back to haunt them once they are in service.

It might be the lifts that are 'out of order' but really, it's the attitudes of those in power that fail to provide adequate provision who are really **'out of order'** – this intervention is a provocation to all of those visionless architects, cowardly planners, indiscriminate funders, inept decision-makers, those with power and rank, they are out of order and we are dedicating this work to them...



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Score for Lift Music - John Woolrich

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Flute – Leila Marshall