Methods and Process : **Knowledge Is Power: 6 Towns 2017**

Considered by Harrison as his first truly public collaboration **Knowledge Is Power:6 Towns** was largely created through an extensive workshop programme which involved participants researching the books in the 6 Town Collection, creating the clay replicas, and developing the Arduino and digital firing technologies in partnership with Staffordshire University Creative Arts and Digital faculty and Wavemaker. Before each workshop, Harrison gave a presentation to all participants, about their role as co producers, and on the ideas behind the project showing images of previous works, working drawings including historical sources of influence, such as Faraday and Tesla.

After initial preparatory drawings and research into the *6 Towns Collection* Harrison found it was impossible to discover the true size of the collection as it was continually expanding, a feature reflected in the open ended alchemical approach of the project. So, after numerous experiments with clay prototypes, more than 800 clay replica books were made during the clay book making workshops. Every participant chose a book from the Six Towns Collection and moulded a clay replica of its form using the ready-made frames. The different clay bodies for each of the 6 library locations formed the main colour of each replica with additional colour added to the spine. The spine colour was devised by turning Dewey numbers in the library classification system into colours from the Electrical Resistance Code - a method used in previous works. In addition the full Dewey number was stamped onto the clay book cover using letterpress numbers and crossed off a master copy of the full available collection. A library bell was rung each time a book was made. The clay books were installed, with only their spines showing, in 6 adapted sheet steel shelving units to cope with the weight and refractory shock, made by local manufacturers KMF and Acme Batt Co. Each shelf system represented one of the six town libraries.

The various clays all had distinct properties so would fire in different ways when heated by the inserted elements. The books were set up to be fired in batches in accordance with the lending figures and although the firing temperature and speed of firing could be adjusted according to the moisture content in the books, the outcomes were unpredictable and some books exploded as the thermal shock was so great. However, once dried out they were more stable. The firing sequence was visible on a wall mounted digital display as part of the installation and thermal imaging cameras were available for larger groups of visitors to see the heat.

Like the shelving system, modular chairs in the reading room were fabricated by KMF from pressed sheet steel based on Harrison’s drawings, which were influenced by the Bruno Munari armchair and the Diana A-F Story design by Konstantin Gric. They also functioned as a pop-up library with areas under the seating to house the books from the original *6 Towns Collection* that visitors could readwhilst the clay books were being fired.