

## **HI-MACS® used at interactive museum Eureka!**

*Designing a fun, colourful way to learn*



Children's museums are spaces designed to give them the opportunity to learn through play or 'informal learning'. They differ from traditional museums, which are usually solemn spaces where visitors aren't usually allowed to touch or interact with exhibits. By contrast, children's museum exhibits are usually hands-on, encouraging them to learn by testing, experimenting, exploring their natural curiosity and using their senses and imagination - therefore the materials and technologies need to be adapted to this format and the design needs to be attractive with a call to action. Eureka! - the National Children's Museum located in Halifax applies this concept, and has chosen HI-MACS® in 8 colourful tones of its palette as the material for the redevelopment of the "Me and My Body Gallery", which re-opened in April 2013.

**HI-MACS® Media contact for Europe:**

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High resolution photos available at [www.himacs.eu/press](http://www.himacs.eu/press)

Eureka! has been established for over 20 years and the original **"Me and My Body"** gallery was showing its age after more than 6 million highly energetic visitors had enjoyed it. The vision that the team at Eureka! had for the new gallery was to provide yet more playful and open ended experiences than the old exhibition and to create a space which children would see as their own.

The project was developed and managed by the museum team and exhibition designers **At Large Design** and produced by **Paragon Creative Ltd** – the principle contractor and one of the largest and best equipped creative workshops in Europe with an expanding solid surface specialized department.

For the last 6 months Paragon have worked with At Large Design and the team at Eureka! on the redevelopment of their hugely popular 'Me and My Body' gallery.



The new gallery which is now called **"All About Me"** is a refreshing and dynamic 850 sqm area with a highly immersive space that informs and educates children about their bodies, diet, health and wellbeing through hands on interactive displays and role-play.

The design team was looking for a way of realising a space that had the highest levels of durability without slipping into the "riot proof" look and feel of playgrounds and some hands-on science centres.

Everything in the space had to be of the highest quality both materially and aesthetically. Spaces and objects in this gallery need to be adapted to high traffic, and extreme use without looking boring or cheap, while easy to maintain and extremely hygienic. For these important reasons, the material research was key, and solid surface material HI-MACS® was the obvious choice. The solid colour range provided exactly the colour palette needed and the material's workability and ability to be

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seamlessly jointed allowed the freedom to create forms and surfaces with real character and presence whilst being extremely durable.

The gallery works as a series of encounters with remarkable objects and spaces which give children the opportunity to build their own play activities and to act as a launchpad for their imaginations. Over seventy mechanical, sculptural and AV based interactive displays were developed, built and installed by Paragon using HI-MACS® to create a whole immersive environment. Playful atmosphere and cutting-edge technology enter into a highly effective symbiosis at the “All About Me” gallery.



## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project :** « All About Me » gallery, Eureka! Museum

**Location:** Halifax, United Kingdom

**Date of completion:** March 2013

**Surface:** 850 sqm

**Design:** At Large Museum & Exhibition Designers – [www.atlarge.co.uk](http://www.atlarge.co.uk)

**Main Contractor:** Paragon Creative Ltd – [www.paragon-creative.co.uk](http://www.paragon-creative.co.uk)

**Material:** HI-MACS®, Venus Green, Festival Pink, Orange, Light Green, Lemon Squash, Banana, Alpine White, Iowa Blue – [www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)

**Photographer:** Philip Vile

**Graphic design :** Public Works Office

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## WHAT IS HI-MACS®?

A new generation acrylic stone, **HI-MACS®** is a material that is designed and produced by **LG HAUSYS**, a world leader in the technology sector, and distributed by **LG HAUSYS EUROPE**, based in Geneva (Switzerland).

Due to its thermoformable properties, its wide range of colours, its translucency and the invisible joins, HI-MACS® is able to provide an infinite number of designs and exclusive finishings. Moreover, this material can be worked as easily as wood as it is easy to handle and to cut.

As regards hygiene, HI-MACS® does not absorb humidity and is highly resistant to stains. Its smooth and non-porous surface means that it is not penetrated by liquids. Completely sterile, this material is easy to clean and to repair.

Unlike other similar materials on the market, HI-MACS® is the only Solid Surface to enjoy official **European Technical Approval (ETA) for façades** – for Alpine White S728 colour – which was awarded by the European Organisation for Technical Approvals (EOTA).

During the manufacturing process, HI-MACS® is heated to very high temperatures by means of an advanced firing heat treatment. This procedure makes HI-MACS® different from other types of acrylic stone, giving it better uniformity and making it more resistant to shocks and UV rays.

Acrylic stone provides infinite possibilities for personalised designs and inspires professionals from all over the world. **Zaha Hadid, Jean Nouvel, Rafael Moneo, Karim Rashid** and **David Chipperfield**, among others, have completed fabulous projects using HI-MACS®, from kitchens to bathrooms, including decorative items, in hotels as well as in museums, shopping centres and on external façades.

HI-MACS® is available in around 100 different colours in various ranges; **Solids, Granite, Sand, Pearl & Quartz, Volcanics, Lucent, Eden, Galaxy** and **Marmo**, in different thicknesses of 3, 6, 9 and 12 mm, depending on the shade. HI-MACS® holds a number of international certifications with regard to the environment, hygiene and fire resistance, such as **ISO 9001** and **14001, Greenguard, NSF, LGA** and **IMO MED** certification (Modules B and D), among others.

HI-MACS® stands out for its excellent quality service, guaranteed by its **Quality Club** programme, consisting of a network of expert manufacturers and approved distributors across Europe. HI-MACS® offers the longest guarantee service on the market: 15 years.

For more information:

[www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)

### HI-MACS® The New Generation

#### Inspired by Architecture

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