

# Leave to Remain

nEws-letter September 2004

Apologies for any cross or double posting.

## EXHIBITIONS

### PARA SITES

Curated by **Brigid Mc Leer**  
**Bridport Arts Centre**

**21 September - 16 October 2004**

**Private View Sept 18th 6 - 9pm**

**ARTISTS:** AI & AI, Ansuman Biswas, Fiona Crisp, Liadin Cooke, Hans E Dehlinger, Katie Holten, Margareta Kern, Rona Lee, Brigid Mc Leer, John Nassari, Gillian Wylde

### **Discussion day and films showings: Friday Oct. 8th from 2pm**

A day of artists' talks and debate, by participating and local artists, addressing issues arising from the exhibition. Followed by a screening of short films from film-makers including AI & AI, Anya Lewin, Steven Eastwood, Kristina Kotov, Zoe Walker +

PARA SITES is a group exhibition and series of related events, curated by Brigid Mc Leer for Bridport Arts Centre. The exhibition brings together an international group of artists whose work, in different ways, approaches questions of site, displacement and the 'foreign body'.

The idea of Para Sites, as the title suggests, is to offer alternative or parallel sites of engagement with the personal, social, political and material consequences of contemporary experiences of place. Equally, the title provokes and disrupts common assumptions of the 'foreign' as having a parasitical relationship to that which we consider familiar. 'Place' in this context then is not a given, rather it is an ambiguous, unstable and contested arena, characterised by the engagement of the refugee, emigrant, coloniser, traveller, agoraphobic, tourist, local, etc.

The work in Para Sites reveals something of the nature of these engagements, but it also parallels them in material and visual ways. While some of the work is directly social, other works present visual, physical or conceptual disruptions that deepen our understanding of the role that representation plays in the construction of place and identity.

Other works in the show present these human dilemmas through the mediation of the non-human; animals, plants, natural forms / urban materials. Operating as both metaphors and catalysts, these strategies draw attention to the difficulty of approaching such complex human conditions 'head-on'. These works also extend our understanding of 'site' as an environment populated and diverse. And as a show entirely located in the supposed 'non-site' of the gallery, conditions of site are freed up to be inferred, reconstituted and relocated in media, language and the imaginary.

Throughout the show, illusions, assumptions, values and givens are offered up for closer examination, presenting the viewer with a challenge to reconsider, to look closer, to think again.

## THE WAITING ROOMS

GP Surgeries, London  
9th September 2004 until September 2005

**ARTISTS:** GEORGE BERBERIAN (Armenia/UK), MOHAMMED BUSHARA (Sudan/UK), MARTHA ELSESSER (Colombia/UK), MARIANA GORDON (Romania/UK), MIRYAM SANJARI (Iran/UK), MARGARETA KERN (Former Yugoslavia/UK) and SUZANA TAMAMOVIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina/UK).

**THE WAITING ROOMS EXHIBITION - BRINGING ART TO UNUSUAL SPACES FOR NEW AUDIENCES**  
Caryne Chapman Clark, founder of Artists in Exile and Dr. Paul Kelland of the Shoreditch Park Surgery collaborated on a concept for touring a visual arts exhibition to particular doctors surgeries in London that have a large patient population of asylum seekers and refugees.

The Waiting Rooms Exhibition brings the work of seven artists, based in the UK, who have a first hand experience of exile. Artists were asked to respond through their work, specifically to the context of GP waiting rooms. The result is an exciting exhibition of diverse new work which will generate discussion around the themes of exile, place and belonging.

The Waiting Rooms Exhibition is taking place in 6 doctors surgeries in the north and east of London. The exhibition will remain in each surgery waiting room for 2 months before moving on to the next one. The first exhibition takes place at The Shoreditch Park Surgery, 10 Rushton Street, London N1 5DR from September 9th.

Please note that the Private View will take place at the beginning of December, details tba.

Leave to Remain artists Margareta Kern and Suzana Tamamovic, have collaborated on a new piece of work for the exhibition. Titled 'Drift Away', the work is exploring issues of time, waiting and that particular state of mind that one enters while waiting for something - 'drifting', filling in time with 'things to do', assembling and reassembling, and pressure and release.

Surgery visitors are invited to write their drifting thoughts on paper, out of which they are asked to make the paper boats. The paper boats will be collected, over a period of one year, then 'released' into the sea in a public performance. (details tba closer to time) For more information about the work please feel free to contact [driftaway\\_art@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:driftaway_art@yahoo.co.uk)

**WHEN IN ROME III**, Curated by Raimi Gbadamosi  
Castlefield Gallery, Manchester  
6th August - 26th September, 2004

**ARTISTS:** Hurvin Anderson; Daniel Baker; Ansuman Biswas; Suki Chan; Wilma Ehni; Nooshin Farhid; Amanda Francis; Raimi Gbadamosi; Paul Jones; Silia KaTung; Margareta Kern; Takafumi Homma; Ronee Hui; Maria Meade; Agnes Poitevin-Navarre; Harold Offeh; Paul O'Kane; Sadia Ur-Rehman; and Raymond Yap.

'When in Rome III', features artists engaged with a range of personal issues within their practice, which then interacts with the socio/political space of contemporary British Art. In presenting artists of 'cultural diversity' who consider their practice a profession, the show functions as a discursive space, a forum, to debate the consequences of history, language, and artistic authority.

The Guardian writes 'Gbadamosi's awareness of this fact gives the show a subtlety that is often lacking from issue-based exhibitions'. (The Guide, Saturday 14th August 2004)

Raimi Gbadamosi 'In Conversation With' Lubaina Himid  
Saturday, September 11, 2004 (14:00 - 16:00)

During an afternoon of critical discussion Raimi Gbadamosi and Lubaina Himid, leading advocates in cultural diversity debates, will explore issues connected to the exhibition 'When In Rome III.

For more information please contact [Castlefield Gallery](#).

## MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION & DIVERSITY

19 Princelet Street, London E1 6QH

OPEN DAYS:

**Sunday 5 September - 12-5pm, for European Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage**

**Sunday 12 September - 12-5pm, for the Brick Lane Festival**

**Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 September - 10am-7pm, for London Open House weekend**

19 Princelet Street in Spitalfields is a magical unrestored Huguenot master silk weaver's home, whose shabby frontage conceals a rare surviving synagogue built over its garden. It is a unique heritage site and a permanent celebration of how all our diverse communities - Asian, African, West Indian, Anglo-Saxon, Jewish, Sikh, Moslem, Huguenot and many others - have made Britain a richer place, culturally, economically and spiritually.

Three artists from the 'Leave to Remain' project have their work on show here in this unique setting. **Gonkar Gyatso's** *'Soft Touch'*, **Suzana Tamamovic's** installation *'People Tell Me To Cheer Up, It Could Be Worse'*, and **Margareta Kern's** installation titled *'Standard Class Opinions'* can be seen on the second floor of this remarkable building.

**Please Note** that Artists will be present at the Museum, Margareta Kern on the 12th September from noon until 2pm and Suzana Tamamovic on the 18th September, from 4pm until 6pm.

The 'hauntingly beautiful' exhibition *Suitcases and Sanctuary*, which has a permanent residence at the Museum, asks you to pause and wonder what could make you leave home for a strange new country. This site specific exhibition explores the history of the waves of immigration that shaped Spitalfields, seen through the eyes of today's children. It is the story of one area, the story of London, and the story of the making of multicultural Britain.

Entrance **free**. Donations welcome. More information on [www.19princeletstreet.org](http://www.19princeletstreet.org) or [www.leavetoremain.org](http://www.leavetoremain.org)

### Journey by Nela Milic

oh!art, 2 - 26 September 2004

The Journey is a triptych installation about the experience of displacement and representation of refugees. It illustrates three stages in the life of an exile, leaving the country of origin, arriving in Britain and longing for home.

Part 1: Refugees come to our country to live on benefits

The beginning of The Journey is suggested by the phrase above, but if you look closer, the food on the table is not real. It is as it is imagined by the people following the story and the people featured in it. Both sides project the idea of eating the feast but are not having it in the real life.

Part 2: Asylum policy in this country is in order

Every asylum seeker has their place in the queue and every case is dealt with separately. However, the long wait for applications to be processed is so degrading that it actually breaches human rights which is the reason why the applicants came to Britain in the first place.

Part 3: Refugees have a better life in Britain

The owner of this space is a female who has integrated to British society. This country is an opportunity for her to start a new life, if only she can embrace it without feeling guilty for having that chance.

Open: 9am- 10pm @ Oxford House

Private View: 02nd September 6pm - 8pm

oh!art Derbyshire St, London E2 6HG

Closest tube: Bethnal Green Bus: 8, 388 Tel: 020 7739 9001

[www.oxfordhouse.org.uk](http://www.oxfordhouse.org.uk)

### TERMINAL FRONTIERS - A Touring Exhibition 2004 - 2005

**Deportation, terror and murder by paper - a digital art exhibition about migration, asylum and global**

## **manipulation**

### **Virtual Migrants with Keith Piper**

Terminal Frontiers is a series of artists' works that ask oblique questions about how the human experience of asylum and migration connects to the politics of local and global conflicts. Using video, installation and digital techniques, this touring show involves devices from Tang Dynasty poetry to interactive software programming and sets works from professional international artists alongside those produced with local people.

24 August – 2 October 2004

Street Level Photoworks

26 King Street, Glasgow, G1 5QP Scotland

T: +44 (0)141 552 2151

[www.sl-photoworks.demon.co.uk](http://www.sl-photoworks.demon.co.uk)

For further details of the tour and the exhibition please visit [www.virtualmigrants.com](http://www.virtualmigrants.com)

## **MINORITY REPORT**

### **Challenging intolerance in Contemporary Denmark**

**25 September -24 October 2004**

An interdisciplinary exhibition project at different locations in Aarhus and environs, Denmark

Co-curated by Trine Rytter Andersen, Kirsten Dufour, Tone O. Nielsen & Anja Raithel in collaboration with the exhibition participants.

For more details please visit [www.minority-report.dk](http://www.minority-report.dk)

## **EVENTS**

### **B+B Workshops at the European Social Forum**

14 - 17 October 2004, London

#### **Workshop 1: Trading Places - Migration, Representation, Collaboration and Activism in Contemporary art**

Join us for a workshop investigating art as a space to broadcast and communicate experiences of migration. Does art have the power to shift public perceptions of migration? Do artists have the right to 'give voice'? This is a follow up discussion from the event Representation or Action at the Pump House Gallery in May 2004 as part of Trading Places.

#### **Workshop 2: Tracing Change - Art and Regeneration**

We will host an open discussion on art and regeneration. The current UK Government promotes art as a tool to relieve social exclusion, improve urban space and solve rural issues. B+B will argue that art is being expected to fill gaps in a failing welfare system and will propose critical strategies and approaches used by artists in areas of regeneration.

Dates, times and locations to be confirmed. Email [bandb@welcomebb.org.uk](mailto:bandb@welcomebb.org.uk) or monitor [www.welcomebb.org.uk](http://www.welcomebb.org.uk) for up to date information. See [www.fse-esf.org](http://www.fse-esf.org) for more information about the ESF.



TERMINAL FRONTIERS deportation, terror, and murder by paper:  
a digital art exhibition about migration, asylum and global manipulation  
by Virtual Migrants with Keith Piper

[www.leavetoremain.org](http://www.leavetoremain.org)

***Leave to Remain*** explores and represents issues of displacement and forced migration through contemporary visual art.

*Leave to Remain* aims to create new spaces for critical discussion concerning these matters.

Leave to Remain is remaining...more details soon...

Edited by Margareta Kern. Your suggestions & comments can be sent to [margareta@leavetoremain.org](mailto:margareta@leavetoremain.org)

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