

Playland: *Re-imagining Communities*

Film commission, photography and installation in response to landscape, heritage & communities of South East England & Northern France

The Brewery Tap
53 Tontine Street
Folkestone
CT20 1JR

8th to 25th September 2016
Thursday-Saturday 12.00-17.00
Sunday 13.00-17.00

Immediate Release

As economies change, so do communities. Landscapes and townscapes once appropriated for manufacture are reclaimed in decline by nature or bulldozers before being shaped again to meet new commercial and leisure goals.

Playland: Re-imagining Communities brings together the narratives of a film commission and the memorabilia of everyday life as international artist Jivko Darakchiev and Folkestone based artist Nicholette Goff engage with local communities to explore senses of place and identity through time.

Darakchiev's film takes landscape as a defining feature of collective memory and modern existence. It examines life in the coastal areas of Northern France and South East England, physically separated for millennia by the English Channel, La Manche, comparing people's interaction on either side of this working, trading waterway, their commonalities and differences.

Darakchiev comments:

My work, in film, photography, or installation, engages in the basic aspects of human nature: our syndromes of being and of doing, and the objects we use, from their rational contexts to unexpected relationships and seeing the familiar under a new light.

This time-based overview is juxtaposed with vignettes of possessions, tokens and markers of the lives of communities of the harbour district of Folkestone in The Brewery Tap, a gallery which was once a vibrant pub at the heart of this longstanding but ever-changing community. Local people have come together to share objects, photographs, documents and memorabilia that reflect how the changing nature of Folkestone has influenced communities and how, in turn, those communities have contributed to forging new identities for the town.

Nicholette Goff comments:

I am very excited about the amazing picture of life around the harbour which the stories tell, the many common themes and the gems of personal stories. They are tales of passion, humour, survival and a strong sense of community spirit.

Notes to editors

Jivko Darakchiev is a fine artist and film-maker who was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. He lived in the United States for 16 years and in 2008 graduated from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. He has travelled widely and now lives and works in Paris. Darakchiev's films reflect his interest in local and isolated communities that he has encountered on his travels. His work encourages people to celebrate their lives at work and play and the vital contributions that individuals and groups make to creating neighbourhoods and a sense of place in rapidly changing times.

www.jivko.org

Nichollette Goff is a fine artist and has an MA in Art Criticism and Theory. Much of her practice was based in the natural environment, exploring issues of change and loss in nature, engaging with the complex questions posed by people who manage the landscape. Goff has a strong sense of community and has always sought opportunities to actively engage people in dialogue around social issues reflected in, and posed by, contemporary art.

www.nichollettegoff.co.uk

Playland will be shown at five venues in the south east of England. At each venue it will be contextualised by documents, artifacts and photographs particular to the local areas which will be sourced by local people with the involvement of film and photography clubs, historical societies and local artists. Artists local to each venue lead the collection of materials and deliver public engagement activities.

<https://playlandweb.wordpress.com>

Playland was commissioned by Christine Gist and Jim Shea

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