

Press release: 18 March 2014

## Sites of Collective Memory exhibition

CGP London 9 July – 10 August, preview Tuesday 8 July, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Phoenix, Leicester 5 September – 3 October

[animateprojects.org](http://animateprojects.org) from 9 July



Production stills: This is History © Roz Mortimer, Chuvihoni/Lel the Chuvi (Witch/Summon the Witch) © Delaine Le Bas and Damian James Le Bas

Animate Projects is pleased to announce the premiere of Sites of Collective Memory at CGP London in July, touring to Phoenix in Leicester in September.

Sites of Collective Memory features four new animated works by artists **Jordan Baseman**, **Shona Illingworth**, **Delaine Le Bas** and **Damian James Le Bas**, and **Roz Mortimer** that offer intimate portraits of individuals - witnesses to historic events at places that resonate with individual and shared remembrance.

Artist Roz Mortimer says: 'I set out to make a film about landscape and forgetting, but after encountering witnesses and survivors it became a film about memory and the impossibility of forgetting.'

Each work takes testimony as its starting point, reflecting on personal experiences of iconic and historic moments – the bombing of Hiroshima, the massacre of Polish Roma in WWII, and the 7/7 London bombings – and in contrast, the private experiences passed down through British Romani families. The artists have worked closely with witnesses, survivors and storytellers in the making of each work: Shona Illingworth has been in dialogue with a 7/7 survivor to explore the effects of trauma on the individual and the media's manipulation of this traumatic event on society at large. Overall the exhibition considers how representations of history and culture are shared and influenced in our collective consciousness.

The works employ diverse animation techniques, with images and film footage manipulated to create complex films that evoke the drama of the stories being told. Jordan Baseman abstracts footage shot of the sky in Hiroshima using stop motion techniques to create a space for contemplation. Delaine Le Bas and Damian James Le Bas are working with award-winning animator Katerina Athanasopoulou to produce their first animated work – one that will be reminiscent of tapestry, weaving together archival imagery, hand drawn animation and live action. The artists will be giving expression to human experience through their exploration of the possibilities of the medium.

Alongside the exhibition at each of our partner venues there will be discussion events with the artists and workshops for young people to further draw people in to the themes of the work. There will also be limited edition prints produced from the works.

Sites of Collective Memory is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

**-Ends-**

## Notes to editors:

Sites of Collective Memory - <http://bit.ly/1h6xvru>

CGP London - <http://www.cgplondon.org>

Phoenix - <http://phoenix.org.uk>

### **Little Boy, Jordan Baseman**

Jordan Baseman shares the personal recollection of Ms Setsuko Enya, a survivor of atomic bombing, to consider the momentous impact that the first use of nuclear weapons has had on humanity since. The title references the name of the atomic bomb that was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945.

Jordan Baseman is a visual artist and filmmaker. His solo exhibitions include Matt's Gallery, London, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, Monash University, Melbourne and Collective Gallery, Edinburgh. He works with institutions including Papworth Hospital Heart and Lung Transplant Unit, Cambridge, Science Museum and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### **This is History, Roz Mortimer**

Roz Mortimer incorporates the testimonies of five elderly villagers, with footage of the landscape where former mass graves once lay, to bring to life the stories of genocide in southern Poland. Roz has worked with Roma children in London to re-voice parts of the testimony of the adult Polish witnesses.

Roz Mortimer is an artist and filmmaker. Since 1995 her film have been widely screened around the world at film festivals, galleries, cinemas and on television, and her work has been supported by Arts Council England, Wellcome Trust, Rockefeller Foundation, British Council Film London, FLAMIN and Channel 4.

### **216 Westbound, Shona Illingworth**

Shona Illingworth presents a portrait of a survivor of the 7/7 London bombings, contrasted with the media's appropriation of an image of his face taken at the event, which has since become an iconic image of both advocacy and remembrance. Shona has been working closely with neuropsychologist Martin A. Conway, Global Security Research Professor Andrew Hoskins and the individual concerned in making this work.

Shona Illingworth works across sound, film, photography, drawing and painting. Her work has been exhibited widely, including at the Museum of Modern Art, Bologna, the National Museum, Tirana and Interaccess Electronic Media Arts Centre, Toronto and she has received high profile commissions from Film and Video Umbrella, the Hayward Gallery and Channel 4.

### **Chuvihoni/Lel The Chuvi (Witch/Summon The Witch), Delaine Le Bas and Damian James Le Bas**

Delaine Le Bas and Damian James Le Bas reveal the tales told at funeral vigils by the artists' relatives of suspected witches and encountered ghosts. This is the first time that the artists have worked with animation and are working with animator Katerina Athanasopoulou on presenting British Romani culture through language, place and kin.

Delaine Le Bas is a British performance and installation artist from a Romani background. Her work has shown extensively internationally, and solo exhibitions include Transition Gallery, London, Galerie Giti Nourbaksch, Berlin, and Galleria Sonia Rosso, Turin.

Damian James Le Bas is a writer, dramatist and poet. He is editor of Travellers' Times, and is part of The Romani Theatre Company. Damian is a regular provider of comment on Romani and Traveller issues to the BBC.

## About CGP London

CGP London is an artist led initiative providing exhibitions of contemporary art, at two venues in Southwark Park. Since its foundation by the Bermondsey Artists' Group in 1984, community integration and inclusiveness has been central to the values of CGP London. They believe in the benefit of creative expression and positive contact with the arts. During this time, a fully evolved learning programme has developed, to encompass shifting demographics, the interests of local people and the changing ways that artists work with audiences.

CGP London, Southwark Park, Bermondsey SE16 2UA | +44 (0) 20 7237 1230

9 July to 10 August, Wed – Sun, 11am – 5pm

Preview: Tuesday, 8 July from 6:30 – 8:30pm

Underground: Canada Water on the Jubilee Line and London Overground Line

Rail: South Bermondsey.

Buses: 1, 47, 188, 199, 225, 381, P12, C10 all stop at Canada Water station, the station is seven minutes walk from Southwark Park

Car: Enter Southwark Park via the Southwark Park Road entrance. Free parking in the park

## About Phoenix Leicester

Set in the heart of Leicester's Cultural Quarter, Phoenix is an independent cinema, digital arts centre and cafe bar. A charitable organisation, Phoenix aims to bring inspirational film and art to all. Phoenix curates a digital art programme that includes exhibitions, talks and events in the Cube gallery, across Phoenix and beyond. As technology becomes a bigger part of our everyday lives, digital art offers new ways of looking at the world, helping us to make sense of things and challenging us to think differently.

Cube Gallery, Phoenix, 4 Midland Street, Leicester, LE1 1TG | +44 (0)116 242 2800

5 September – 3 October, Mon – Fri, 9am – 11pm, Sat – Sun, 10am – 11pm

Rail: Leicester - traveling by train [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Buses: Traveling by bus - [www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk)

Car: A pay and display car park is available next to Phoenix (entrance on Burton Street LE1 1TE)

## About Animate Projects

Animate Projects is the only arts charity in the UK dedicated to championing artists' animation. We support artists in the production and distribution of innovative work, and develop opportunities for the public to connect with artists' work in new ways through collaborations with partners in broadcasting, art galleries, the charity sector, and museums. We sustain and develop a substantial online space and educational resource at [animateprojects.org](http://animateprojects.org), and promote critical debate through publishing writing and staging events.

Experiments in animation - <http://www.animateprojects.org>

## Further press information:

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Phoenix



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