INSPIRE 2011 – 2014

The British Council funded project ‘INSPIRE’, which stands for International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education, helped to create and develop partnerships between The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Preston, UK and Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Lahore, Pakistan.

International Networks & Local Landscapes

Through a series of skills-based workshops, cultural sharing and the development of an understanding of socially engaged arts practice, the project culminated in a three-day arts exhibition and symposium called ‘International Networks & Local Landscapes’. With delegates from Pakistan, London and Texas the three-day event included an art exhibition ‘Right Here – Right Now’, a presentation at UCLan and a symposium in a derelict mill in East Lancashire.

Right Here – Right Now: Brierfield Library, Pendle, Lancashire

The exhibition has developed from an earlier postcard exchange (between the UK and Pakistan) from 2010 called ‘Lancashire to Lahore’ with an earlier theme of ‘This is England -This is Pakistan’. However, the 2014 theme was developed through conversations with participating students from BNU and UCLan; from being a reflection on both locations in 2010 to a more personal response to the title ‘Right Here – Right Now’.

So while the previous artworks from 2010 depicted more general images of England and Pakistan, the 2014 theme expanded the idea to include and encourage more person specific responses. The result was a collection of culturally diverse images by university students, professional artists and members of the public from Denmark, France, Germany, Pakistan, the UK and USA.

The work reflected on issues ranging from misrepresented communities to personal dilemmas, political puns and regional cultures. It included a variety of approaches to image making from abstraction, illustration, traditional Indian miniature painting, collage, drawing, printing, photography, and the inclusion of found objects/materials. As a collection of images these postcards represented but a tiny window to view a handful of creative communities in different parts of the world. These communities, with access to global media networks are very much representative of other such communities around the world, who share similar concerns; whether it’s the politics of the war on terror, nationalism, the state of the planet or more personal issues of identity and relationships.

Each individual work offered a fascinating glimpse into the lives and minds of the artists who conceived them, setting up encounters of the imagination, transcribed in another language, yet easily translated and accessed through common codes of imagery. The postcards themselves are objects to be held by strangers in distant lands, admired, judged, debated upon and taken inspiration from. They tell stories of far away places, thousands of miles away and yet so close to the heart.

Presentations – UCLan campus, Preston, Lancashire

The conference and symposium created spaces for presentation, reflection and informal conversation on subjects related to socially engaged arts practice including cross-disciplinary approaches, corporate influences, negotiating places, grassroots approaches, and ethical arts practice. International networks were nurtured and local communities were imagined, cities were hidden and monuments were sent from the future.

Virginia Whiles (Chelsea College of Arts, University of Arts London).

Whiles discussed an anthropological approach to identifying ways in which art practice is transformed through social, historical and political factors with a particular focus on contemporary Pakistani Miniature
painting.

Acknowledging parallel processes in her fieldwork and in artists’ residencies, Whiles validated points for anthropological methodologies to be included in art education; collaboration, participation, performance and conversation playing significant roles in both disciplines. Highlighting a tension between macro and micro realities in the age of the Internet, Whiles mapped out some of the major influences, concerns and challenges faced by contemporary Pakistani artists.

**Rosie Cooper (Project Curator - The Liverpool Biennial)**

Cooper highlighted the challenges involved when attempting to balance the interests of large ‘powerful’ corporate investors in the city with the needs (and concerns) of artists and local communities. Pointing out that, in a period of art history, which is ‘overloaded’ with art biennials and festivals, it is important to have the backing of local business, government and communities and at the same time drawing on the experience of international arts organizations. Aiming to embed arts activity into the fabric of the landscape, The Liverpool Biennial provides artists with opportunities to ask difficult questions not only through any audio/visual output but also through social processes and sincere approaches to people and the environment of the city.

**Rick Lowe (Director of Project Row Houses in Houston, Texas)**

Lowe shared his passion for down-to-earth approaches, working with communities via processes of considered facilitation; producing beautiful outcomes to local problems. Comparing his interactions to creative processes found in painting or sculpture, Lowes’ approach to social empowerment succeeds in producing poetic and symbolic situations: by their very nature and depth of interaction with a locale and its inhabitants. At the same time acknowledging the significance of making the international a resource for the local: discovering, exploring, and sharing knowledge and understanding of other cultures and communities.

**Elaine Speight, (Curator of In Certain Places, Preston)**

Speight talked about art and its ability to uncover hidden cities through careful negotiation of spaces. Acknowledging a subjective perception of the city, In Certain Places produces situations and spaces for artists and communities to engage in conversations with place; aiming to extend conversations about the future of the city, usually reserved for local officials to include more members of the public.

**Symposium**

An informal opportunity to engage in conversation with speakers and delegates on a variety of subjects and issues: the prospects of long-term creative engagement with communities and landscapes and the value of Socially Engaged Art practice. Attendees got the chance to introduce themselves in round-table discussions, pitching questions and ideas to the table. Participants enjoyed an informal atmosphere, shared local produce and extended their networks.

**Discussions were led by:**

Dr. Virginia Whiles, Dr. Elaine Speight, Alnoor Mitha, Mike Chavez-Dawson, Maddi Nicholson & Rick Lowe.

**Online video recordings**

The following web links to video recordings of each speaker session are current at the time of printing but due to the nature of the online database we cannot guarantee content availability from that location in the future.

http://vls.uclan.ac.uk/Play/9408
Virginia Whiles (Chelsea College of Arts, University of Arts London)

http://vls.uclan.ac.uk/Play/9409
Rosie Cooper (Project Curator - The
Liverpool Biennial).

http://vls.uclan.ac.uk/Play/9407
Rick Lowe (Director of Project Row Houses in Houston, Texas)

http://vls.uclan.ac.uk/Play/9405
Elaine Speight, (Curator of In Certain Places, Preston).

http://vimeo.com/91391817
Video montage of the three-day event. Produced by ‘In-Situ’.

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Principal Investigator: William Titley – The University of Central Lancashire. UK
Partner Lead Contact: Risham Syed, Beaconhouse National University, Pakistan.
In Collaboration with In—I-Situ
WHEN ALL WILL END.
THIS WAS THEN.
You saw the whole
You sighed oh no oh life
You sighed all for
You sighed oh no
You sighed only should I
I know

I love you

You saw no one for
You don't know I would
You
You don't love you
You don't know, how could
You don't know I would
You
You don't know...
White marks highlighted by
the artist in response to
private collaboration with the
recently privatised Royal Mail.
No hidden agenda intended.
Framed and Unframed.
Five shot dead in
Do our mutilated corpses bring you closer to heaven?
POSTCARDS
Connecting People
Contents

9. Abigail Smith - UK
10. Adelaide Canard - Its Done - France
11. Aemun Opel - The Great Divide - Pakistan
12. Ahmed Faizan Naveed - Pakistan
13. Ahmed Sheazad Masud - Pakistan
14. Ali Raza - Pakistan
15. Ali Tahir - Pakistan
16. Alina Abbas Shah - Pakistan
17. Alina Tauseef - Pakistan
18. Ammar Faiz
19. Amna Jamal Bhutta - Taiz Raftar - Pakistan
20. Amna Zeeshan - Pakistan
21. Anam Nasir - Pakistan
22. Ann Hampson - Inexorable - UK
23. Anon Ahmad - Pakistan
24. Areet Aamir Garaya - Politician - Pakistan
25. Arwa Abid - Pakistan
26. Asif Khan - Pakistan
27. Asna Nasir - Pakistan
28. Azizullah Hazara - Burned Words - Pakistan
29. Barbara Hoeghen - Mumbai Downtown - Germany
30. Beenish Zahid - Pakistan
31. Bethany Cassidy - Apocolyptea - UK
32. Charisse Pearliana Weston - Tout ce qui est nouveau est de ce faint automatiquement traditional - USA
33. Christina Porter - Cut Up No1 - UK
34. Claire Baxter - UK
35. Danielle Cunningham LI - UK
36. Daveid Darbyshire - Rich There - UK
37. David Alesworth - United Kingdoms - Pakistan
38. Ehtysham Azhaz - Line Of Control - Pakistan
39. Emma Wellens - Blank - UK
40. Eskild Beck - Today We had a Sunrise and a Sunset - Denmark
41. Faiza Bhatti - Pakistan
42. Farhat Ali - A King Should Have a Chair - Pakistan
43. Farrukh Adnan - I am Here - Pakistan
44. Fatima Ahjad - Pakistan
45. Fatima Josh - Pakistan
46. Fattima Naufil - Three Hours - Pakistan
47. Fern Nicholas - Doodles of Loodels - UK
48. G.M. - Gungaan - Pakistan
49. George Kershaw - This Way Up - UK
50. Gwendolyn Kulick - Resilience - Pakistan
51. Hafsa Qadeer - Pakistan
52. Hamza Rana - Pakistan
53. Hannah Bridge - UK
54. Heather Chow - UK
55. Helen Oxley - Standing Right Here Entwined in The Here and Now - UK
56. Hifsa Farooq - Pakistan
57. Hira Tahir Mirza - Pakistan
58. Hmna Khan - Pakistan
59. Huda Zahid - Pakistan
60. Huma Mulji - Pakistan
61. Hurmat Ul Ain - Pakistan
62. Inga Lineviciute - The Departure - UK
63. Jacob Wilson - Deconstruction - UK
64. Jacqueline McGovern - My Last Wish - UK
65. Jahangir Khan - Pakistan
66. Jane Chinea - Feb14 - UK
67. Jasmine Dixon - UK
68. Javeria Ahsen - Pakistan
69. Javeria Masood - Dec13 - Pakistan
70. Jawwad Zaidi - Cutting Continents - Pakistan
71. Jeni McConnell - Fading Fast - UK
72. Jeremiah Macha - Release - USA
73. Jessica McNulty - UK
74. Joe Hesketh - Who are you - UK
75. Juliane Eick Aziz - Islamabad G11 - Pakistan
76. Kashif Shahbaz - Pakistan
77. Kathryn Poole - Alien Stowaway - UK
78. Katie Randle - UK
79. Kings Poge - Trapped - UK
80. Koshal Kumar Hamal - School Bell - Pakistan
81. Kyle Nate Brown - UK
82. Leanne Cunningham - The Dwarf - UK
83. Len Horsey - Signed for Delivery - UK
84. M. Idrees - The Beauty in Silence - Pakistan
85. Maham Masood - Pakistan
86. Maham Sftikhaar - Pakistan
87. Maheen Afghan - Vicious Circle - Pakistan
88. Mahrukh Mailk - Always Forever - Pakistan
89. Maimuna Akram - Pakistan
90. Manal Sadiq - Pakistan
91. Maria Faisal - Chai Chahiye - Pakistan
92. Matthew Birchall - Its physical honest - UK
93. Matthew Lee - Real Time Pasts - UK
94. Mehr Un Nisa Akmal - Pakistan
95. Mikey Weinkove - UK
96. Moonis Ahmad Shah - Between the Landscaoe and the Landscape and the decentered landscape - Pakistan
97. Mushin Taasha - Kalla Menaarha - Pakistan
98. Naima Khan - Pakistan
99. Narijis Mirza - The White Line - Pakistan
100. Nauman Abid - For A Better Place - Pakistan
101. Naveera Meboob - Pakistan
102. Nayab Sarib - Pakistan
103. Nazia Ejaz - Wreck - Pakistan
104. Neha Shahzad - Pakistan
105. Oliver Blight - Stuart Does Yoga - UK
106. Pete Clarke - Escape - UK
107. Phillipe Handford - Sagittarius Constellation - UK
108. Pretima Thakali - Resilience of Interval - Pakistan
109. Qutub Rind - One Size Fits All - Pakistan
110. Rabiah Razzaque - Pakistan
111. Rachel Pursglove - On The Day of My Visit - UK
112. Raisham Ashraf - Pakistan
113. Rea Storr - UK
114. Richard Tymon - 25 Seconds - UK
115. Rishan Khaliq - You With Love - Pakistan
116. Roberta Cialfi - UK
117. Ruth Tyson - Pieces - UK
118. Sabahat Nawaz - Hyperbole/A - Pakistan
119. Salima Hashmi - Pakistan
120. Samantha Pickett - It was Blast - UK
121. Sameer Rahim Pasha - Pakistan
122. Sandra Bouguerch - Hung - UK
123. Sara Aslam - Pakistan
124. Sara Shoaib - First Flight - Pakistan
125. Shanza Elahi - All it takes is one prick - Pakistan
126. Shanzey Kiran O Waisi - Pakistan
127. Shifa Mubarak - Pakistan
128. Stephanie Fletcher - Private Land - UK
129. Sundas Shahid - Pakistan
130. Tajender Sagoo - UK
131. Talal Faisal - Ranga Rang - Pakistan
132. Teresa Waterhouse - Sunrise in the Glen - UK
133. Tina Dempsey - UK
134. Tom Dagnall - Light - UK
135. Tony Knox - Mothman Connection - UK
136. Tracy Hill - Location - UK
137. Unum Babar - Curb - Pakistan
138. Waheed Shahzad - Pakistan
139. Waqar Aziz - Pakistan
140. William Titley - Keeping The Faith - UK
141. Zehra Aziz - Electric Feel - Pakistan