Lancashire to Lahore
William Titley
2010

A visual communication project between creative communities in the UK and Pakistan.
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Introduction: William Titley

In a world where forms of communication are developing in parallel with the speed of new technology, it is arguably the tourist industry which has kept the picture postcard in circulation.

Postcards from the past develop into sentimental reminders of another place and time, they are an acknowledged and valuable depiction of social history: offering a glimpse into the lifestyles of previous communities in forgotten worlds. They communicate images of exotic and far away places often represented by picturesque or idealised images of somewhere else, another reality.

For those who have never been to such places, they depict a realm of fantastic experiences which beckon the new explorer to uproot and set out in search of adventure or perhaps a new life. However as historical documents, postcards act as visual fragments of a time when things were significantly different, a view to a lost world of fashion, architecture, language, art and everyday life.

This project investigates the idea of visual communication through the ongoing exchange of postcards or miniature artworks created in respect of a specific time and place. The process encourages different cultures to exchange personal interpretations of a place they are familiar with.

The exchange initiative offers opportunities to generate creative and critical dialogue regarding current social and political situations in different locations.

The call-out for participants engaged professional artists, students and members of local community groups. Their work, exhibited in Pakistan and the UK, forms an ongoing archive of creative imagery: reflecting current societal states and conditions.

The work submitted demonstrates a variety of inventive interpretations and creative approaches including painting, drawing, etching, collage, photography, digital imaging, laser-etching and embroidery.

The submissions from Pakistan explore the theme of 'This is Pakistan' and were exhibited in The Centre of Contemporary Arts at The University of Central Lancashire, Preston, Lancashire, UK.
The UK submissions explore the theme ‘This is England’ and were displayed at The Beaconhouse National University Gallery, Lahore, in Pakistan.

Both collections however, exist as an ongoing archive of visual communication between the two countries: employing sincere and humorous approaches and mark-making strategies to reveal aspects of everyday life.

The artists involved in submitting work for ‘This is England’ included professionals from around the UK, students from The University of Central Lancashire and members of the Bradley Regeneration Group in East Lancashire.

They interpret the theme on many different levels and through a diverse range of methods, from acute observations of everyday life to cheeky references about political correctness; often attempting to make sense of the place by highlighting a fascination with landscape, leisure, and the built environment.

The students who submitted work from Lahore have more pressing concerns as they attempt to convey a sense of oppression and disruption to every day routines.

They present us with a dazzling array of colours complete with finely crafted embellishments and references to ancient art practices which appear in contrast against images depicting the all consuming threat of war and terror among their citizens.

Both the UK and the Pakistan collections contain two responses from two locations which together make up one archive. This archive has yet to find a name as it develops alongside international relations between the participating countries.

As political developments continue to influence the creative communities in both countries, the archive will begin as a snapshot of life in 2010.
Lancashire to Lahore: Hayley Drayton

Travelling and mass emigration can often create huge topological distances between separated communities but at the same time help to create relationships between new territories and homelands. Postcards and letter writing were the initial methods used to shorten the spatial void between ‘home and away’.

In Britain today, we live in a multicultural society which began to take shape back in 1948 with the passing of ‘The British Nationality Act’. The act allowed 800 million people from The British Colonies to live and work in the UK without a Visa. This bid to resolve a desperate labour shortage encouraged a large number of Pakistanis to settle in the UK. Only a year old, Pakistan was also experiencing a mass influx of communities as millions of Muslims from India were claiming an equal right to settle in the new sacred land, while the country wrestled with defining itself as a Muslim nation.

Throughout its short history, the geographical location of Pakistan made it a strategic passage between other countries in Central and Southern Asia. Forever in the shadow of more mature neighbours like India and China, Pakistan continues to seek an established notion of its national identity. With Sunni and Shia factions of the Muslim faith, Pakistan had difficulty creating a constitutional foundation due to religious differences, leaving it vulnerable to authoritarian rule. It has since striven to be the flagship for Muslim enlightenment; however, it has become the negative focus of worldwide media attention.

Today, it is a country in the midst of unsettled global politics, with conflicts both within its volatile borders and also with its closest neighbours. These conflicts continue to isolate Pakistan from its neighbours and the rest of the world through a growing fear of its connection with terrorism. However, we must not forget about the British Citizens with family, friends and acquaintances in Pakistan. This connection of communities over great distances demands effective communication: a messaging service which was once dominated by the humble postcard.

Although a postcard is traditionally a souvenir from a tourist destination, it is really a gesture of ‘hello’, a token of existence between locations: I am here, you are there. We send an image (via the postcard) that defines both our location and our sensibility.

Participants in this project have the opportunity to create a very personalized image, offering a sense of themselves and their location through a process of image making. Each postcard communicates the makers’ sentiments relative to the place it was made; participating in the construction and development of interpretations which define a given locale.

There is a sense of privileged intimacy when viewing this collection of objects in a gallery display which may well be lost when viewing online or within the pages of a book. However, we can still hear the chorus of voices, the epitaph which distinguishes cultural identities and cultural locations.

A resonating chorus by creative communities in the UK and Pakistan which can be read as postcards from extended members of a family once called the British Empire.
‘This is Pakistan’

This part of the archive is made up of work submitted by students from The Beaconhouse National University in Lahore, Pakistan and was exhibited at the following venues in 2010:

Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan.
Bradley Community Fun Day Event, Nelson, Lancashire. UK.
The Centre for Contemporary Arts, UCLan, Preston, UK.
‘This is Pakistan’

Aaizah Sheikh – ‘Colours of Basant’ – Mixed Media
Ahmed Faraz – ‘Pakistani Rubaab’ – Mixed Media
Aleena – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Areeb Masood – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Asna Ijaz – ‘What is Pakistan?’ – Digital Image
Ateeque Ahmed – ‘Make U Green One Day’ – Digital Image
Fatima Khalid – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Hina Anwar – ‘Revival of Billboard Art in Lahore’ – Mixed Media
Khadija Qureshi – ‘Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Maisha Adam – ‘Badshahi Mosque’ – Digital Image
Manal Qamar – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Maria Rana – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Mehreen Zaid – ‘Hope for Pakistan’ – Mixed media
Mehuiash Ikram – ‘Sindhi Tradition’ – Threads & Magazine
Muhammad Idrees – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Munazza Khalique – ‘Ethnic’ – Mixed Media
Muneeb – ‘This is my Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Noor-Ul-Ain Haider – ‘The Left Overs’ – Watercolour
Rahyma Panni – ‘Land of the Pure’ – Digital Image
Rameen Kazmi – ‘Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Rida – ‘Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Rushda Nasir – ‘Traditions of Pakistan’ – Drawing
Saima Abaidullah – ‘Automaticism’ – Watercolour
Shabaz Jamil – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Soosin Choeda – ‘One Nation’ – Digital Image
Tahir Hussain Shazad – ‘This is Lahore’ – Drawing
Umber Majeed – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Usman Faizi – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Zaib Haider – ‘Our Colours’ – Watercolour
Zainab Sikander Baig – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Ahnmed Faraz – ‘Jeeway Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Anum Fatima Wajhat – ‘Untitled’ – Digital Image
Anum Javed – ‘Art of Puppetry’ – Mixed Media
Ayesha Shafq – ‘Untitled’ – Watercolour
Komal Ehsan – ‘Lahore on the go!’ Acrylic
Misha Shahzad – ‘Cultural Heritage’ – Watercolour
Momina Naseem – ‘Essence of Lahore’ – Mixed Media
Saima Noor – ‘Yeh Dil Hai Aashiquana’ – Collage/Painting
Samreen Butt – ‘My Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Sher Ali – ‘Pakistan’ – Digital Image
Soha Shahid – ‘Cross Culture’ – Drawing
Tayyaba Sabir – ‘Theater’ – Mixed Media
Zunaira Raza – ‘Dhol’ – Graphic/Embroidery
Aleena

Ali-Rifhaan

Ali-Saad

Pakistan
The Army of One

"and if I don't come back,
tell them .. that I've sacrificed my today
FOR THEIR TOMMOROW"
Fatima-Khalid

Hina-Anwar

Khadija-Qureshi
‘This is England’

This part of the archive is made up of work submitted by creative communities throughout the UK including professional artists, students from The University of Central Lancashire and members of the Bradley Arts and Regeneration Group in East Lancashire and was exhibited at the following venues in 2010:

Bradley Community Fun Day Event, Nelson, Lancashire. UK.
The Centre for Contemporary Arts, UCLan, Preston, UK.
Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan.
‘This is England’

Caroline Khouri, London – ‘Afternoon Tea’ – Mixed Media
Caroline Jane Harris, Dulwich – ‘Gothic I (Chester Cathedral)’ – Digital Print
Denise Keen-Junk, Knott-End-On-Sea – ‘I’ll be there waiting’ – Etching
Eskild Beck, Denmark – ‘Dictionary’ – Collage/Painting
Farzana Asgha, Brierfield – ‘Singing in the Rain’ – Drawing
Hannah Singleton, Preston – ‘23rd March 1952’ – Drawing
India Ritchie, London – ‘Greetings from London’ – Drawing
Irene Masih, – Nelson – ‘Pendle Hill’ – Watercolour
Jan Bowyer, Nelson – ‘Fish, Chips & Mushy Peas’ – Watercolour
Jane Chavez-Dawson, Manchester – ‘Full English’ – Digital Video Still - Canvas
Jason Minsky, Manchester – ‘Same Shit Different Accents’ – Digital Print
Joanne Mycock, Preston – ‘Tea Time’ – Painting
Khalida Saleem, Nelson – ‘Englands Bunting’ - Watercolour
Mark Bithell, Nelson – ‘Hardcastle Crags’ – Acrylic
Mathew Birchall, Chorley – ‘Three Thoughts’ – no. 2 - Drawing
Michael Walker, Liverpool – ‘PC World’ - Drawing
Rachel Pursglove, Bury – ‘Tea with Shortbread’ - Drawing
Rebecca Liggitt, Lytham-St-Annes – ‘Trees in The Lake District’ - Drawing
Samina Butt, Nelson – ‘Money Doesn’t Grow On Trees’ - Watercolour
Semi Park, South Korea – ‘Wind’ - Watercolour
Sheena Malone, Dublin – ‘Untitled’ – Pen Drawing
Sidra Farhat, Nelson – ‘Coke & Kebab’ - Watercolour
Simon Britner, Stockport – ‘Bright Future’ - Collage
Sundar Kanta Walker, Grange-over-Sands – ‘Fusion’ – Mixed Media
Tina Simson, Nelson – ‘Historical Political’ - Watercolour
Toon Vanden-Broek, Holland – ‘Bradley Terrace’ - Watercolour
Tracy Hill, Warrington – ‘Above and Below’ - Printmaking
William Tiley, Colne – ‘Doorstep Challenge’ - Drawing
Amanda Robertshaw, Southport – ‘Alliums in Winter’ - Printmaking
Amy Thurbon, Chard – ‘Coastal Study’ - Painting
Ben Sanderson, Lancaster – ‘Domesticated Fowl’ - Printmaking
Charles Quick, Leeds – ‘Chimney at Bradley’ – Pen Drawing
Craig Atkinson, Southport – ‘No Title’ - Drawing
David Alker, Manchester – ‘I need your location’ - Drawing
Fiona Hughes, Rickmansworth – ‘Bethnal Green’ – Drawing with Parcel Tape
Geoffrey Spence, Preston – ‘Landscape’ - Acrylic
Hayley Drayton, Carlisle – ‘Infarction’ - Drawing
Hazel James, Colne – ‘Grey Days’ - Embroidery
Ingrid Christie, Lanarkshire – ‘Who Knows Where’ - Watercolour
Janet Manogue, Preston – ‘Crossing The River, Circa 1660’ – Printmaking/Collage
Jeni McConnell, Warrington – ‘Apple –Apricot’ - Drawing
Joe Hesketh, Barrowford – ‘The Face of it’ – Oil on Canvas
Jonathan Pilkington, Preston – ‘Another Sunny Day’ - Drawing
Kathryn Parker, Preston – ‘Too Dear For Them’ - Painting
Kelsey Stead – Preston – ‘Going Home’ - Lino Print
Lubaina Himid, Preston – ‘The Real Story’ – Collage/Painting
Mathew Birchall, Chorley – ‘Three Thoughts’ – no. 3 - Drawing
Michael Howlett, Darlington – ‘Untitled’ - Drawing
Mike Chavez-Dawson, Manchester – ‘Uniform Kilo (Perceived Boundaries)’ - Laser Etching Wood
Nicola Ellis, Preston – ‘Adding insult to injury’ Drawing with threads
Nigel Paul Goldie, Nelson – ‘Chimney’ - Watercolour
Paula Smithson, Morecambe – ‘Tea Time’ - Drawing
Peter Davies, Preston – ‘That’s the way to do it’ – Collage/Painting
Rebecca Chesney, Preston – ‘Dandelion’ - Printmaking
Sophie Gibson, Burnley – ‘Protests’ - Drawing
Stephanie Fletcher, Preston – ‘Columba Palumbus (Wood Pigeon)’ - Drawing
Michael Walker

Rachel Pursglove

Rebecca Liggett
APPLE - APRICOT, pages 50-51
Green leaves, stings when touched

Jonathan Pilkington

Kathryn Parker
William Titley.

Often employing elements of community consultation to engage directly with place and people, William’s projects explore ideas of location, identity and spatial ownership.

Utilizing local resources to facilitate projects and empower communities, his work acts as a catalyst for dialogue and reflection: from archive interventions, documentaries and exhibitions, to private commissions, performative curation and community workshops.

Hayley Drayton.

In 2008, Hayley graduated with a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art from the University of Central Lancashire.

She has an interest in drawing as a process of engaging with three dimensional objects, peeling and scratching away at the textured layers of history and questioning the functionality and aura of found objects.

Editor: William Titley

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Front cover image: Zam Zammer, Lahore - W. Titley 2010