# Lancashire to Lahore William Titley

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 However as historical documents, postcards act as visual fragments of a time when things were significantly different, a view to a lost world of fashion, architecture, language, art and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.



'This is Pakistan': The Centre of Contemporary Arts, UCLan, March 2010



The UK submissions explore the theme 'This is England' and were displayed at The Beaconhouse National University Gallery, Lahore, in Pakistan.



'This is England': Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Mar. 2010

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 snaphot of life in 2010.

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### 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'

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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.

### <u>'This is Pakistan'</u>

Aaizzah Sheikh - 'Colours of Basant' - Mixed Media Ahmed Faraz – 'Pakistani Rubaab' – Mixed Media Ahmed Fraz – 'Bumpy Bus Ride Home' – Digital Image Aleena – 'Untitled' - Digital Image Ali Rifhaan - 'Untitled' - Digital Image Ali Saad – 'The Army of One' - Digital Image Areeb Masood – 'Untitled' - Digital Image Asna Ijaz – 'What is Pakistan?' - Digital Image Ateeque Ahmad – '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 Mehuish Ikram – 'Sindhi Tradition' – Threads & Magazine Muhammad Idrees – 'Untitled' - Digital Image Munazzah Kulsoom – '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 Sosin 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 Ahmed Faraz – 'Jeeway Pakistan' - Digital Image Anum Fatima Wajahat – 'Untitled' - Digital Image Anum Javed – 'Art of Puppetry' – Mixed Media Avesha Shafiq – 'Untitled' – Watercolour Komal Ehsan – 'Lahore on the go!' Acrylic Misha Shahzad – 'Cultural Heritage' – Watercolour Momina Naseem - 'Essence of Lahore' - Mixed Media Muhammad Abubakar Asif - 'What Else Could Pakistani's Wish for?' - Digital Image Saima Noor - 'Yeh Dil Hai Ashiqana' - Collage/Painting Samreen Butt – 'My Pakistan' - Digital Image Sher Ali – 'Pakistan' – Digital Image Sofia Shahid - 'Cross Culture' - Drawing Tayyaba Sabir – 'Theater' - Mixed Media Waqar Ali – 'Wake Up' - Digital Image Wagar Ali – 'Truck Culture' - Digital Image Zunaira Raza – 'Dhol' – Graphic/Embroidery

Aaizzah-Sheikh



Ahmed-Faraz2



Ahmed-Fraz



Aleena



Ali-Rifhaan



Ali-Saad



Areeb-Masoon



Asna-Ijaz



Ateeque-Ahmad



MAKE IL CREEN ONE DAY





Hina-Anwar



Khadija-Qureshi



Maisha-Adam



Manal-Qamar



Maria-Rana

× .



Mehreen-Zaid



Mehuish-Ikram



Muhammad-Idrees



Munazzah-Kulsoom



Muneeb



Noor-ul-ain-Haider



Rahyma-Panni



PAKISTAN - Land of Pure

Rameen-Kazmi



PAKISTAN

Rida

Rushda-Nasir



Saima-Abaidullah



Shabaz-Jamil



Sosin-Choeda



Tahir-Hussain-Shazad



Umber-Majeed



Usman-Faizi



Zaib-Haider



Zainab-Sikander-Baig



### Anum-Fatima-Wajahat

Ahmed-Faraz1

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Ayesha-Shafiq

Anum-Javed





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#### Komal-Ehsan

#### Misha-Shahzad



#### Muhammad-Abubakar-Asif

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Momina-Naseem



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Frank

### Saima-Noor



## Waqar-Ali no. 1

### Tayyaba-Sabir





Zunaira-Raza

Waqar-Ali no. 2



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## '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'

Carolina Khouri, London - 'Afternoon Tea' - Mixed Media Caroline Jane Harris, Dulwich - 'Gothic I (Chester Cathedral)' - Digital Print David Wilcock, London - 'Backyard' - Drawing 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 Kalsum Akhtar, Nelson - 'Pendle Through The Mirror' - Watercolour Khalida Saleem, Nelson – 'Englands Buntings' - Watercolour Mark Bithell, Nelson – 'Hardcastle Craggs' – Acrylic Mathew Birchall, Chorley – 'Three Thoughts' – no. 2 - Drawing Michael Walker, Liverpool - 'PC World' - Drawing Rachel Pursglove, Bury - 'Tea with Shortbread' - Drawing Rebecca Liggett, 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 Titley, 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 Luke Smith, Derby - 'The British Bird List as of January 3rd 2009' - Digital Print Mathew Birchall, Chorley - 'Three Thoughts' - no. 3 - Drawing Matthew Krishanu, London - 'Brighton Viaduct' - Painting 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 Sophia Goldie, Nelson - 'Girl Power' - Watercolour Sophie Gibson, Burnley - 'Protests' - Drawing Stephanie Fletcher, Preston – 'Columba Palumbus (Wood Pigeon)' - Drawing





Caroline-Harris



David-Wilcock

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Denise-Keen-Junk



Eskild-Beck



Farzana-Asgha



Hannah-Singleton



India-Ritchie



Irene-Masih







Jane-Chavez-Dawson



Jason-Minsky



Joanne-Mycock



Kalsum-Akhtar



Khalida-Saleem



Mark-Bithell



William-Titley



Matthew-Birchall no. 2





Rachel Pursglove



Rebecca Liggett



Samina Butt



Semi Park



Sheena Malone



Sidra Farhat



Simon Britner



Sundar-Kanta-Walker







Toon-Vanden-Broek



Tracy-Hill



### Amanda Robertshaw

Amy Thurbon





Ben Sanderson

Charles Quick



### Craig Atkinson

### David Alker

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I NEED YOUR LOCATION TO HELP YOU

Fiona Hughes





2-





Ingrid Christie

Janet Manogue



### Jeni McConnell





Jonathan Pilkington

Kathryn Parker





Lubaina Himid





Matthew Birchall no. 3

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### Michael Howlett





Mike Chavez-Dawson











Rebecca Chesney





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Sophie Gibson





Stephanie Fletcher





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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