

Press Release

Dialogue: *Déraciner*

The Arena Gallery, Mac, Birmingham
1 October – 27 November 2016

Déraciner, meaning to ‘uproot’, is key to this exhibition of recent work by the Anglo/French group, Dialogue. The focus is on ideas; uprooted, transformed and reworked through international dialogue. The word deracinate has itself been re-rooted into the English language from the French, *déraciner*.

Alongside their individual practices, the artists in the Dialogue group have collaborated since 2008 on a number of joint projects. This exhibition brings together, Joss Burke, Dominique Etna Corbal, Peter Grego, Dr Myfanwy Johns, Véronique Lamare, Tom Ranahan and Francis Viguera.

The seven artists involved have exhibited widely together in the UK and France. In 2010 the group created an exhibition, *Dialogue*, which was the inaugural exhibition the Arts Chartrons Festival in Bordeaux. After this, those involved adopted the name as a collective project name.

Since 2011, Dialogue has curated exhibitions at the Article Gallery, Birmingham, Oxford Brookes University, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum and in France at the the “Rendez-vous aux Jardins” Festival at Cairnhill in Poitou-Charente. Each of these shows presented the work of a number of invited artists alongside that of Dialogue group members.

In 2012, Dialogue curated a six month project at mac, Birmingham, that formed part of the event, Allotment. The group brought together 18 artists from the UK, France, Germany and Ireland in an exhibition that provided a space to explore and develop new collaborative ideas. This included web streaming from France to Birmingham to bring a number of international artists into a live conversation with the gallery public at mac.

Dialogue: *Déraciner* follows on from this previous project with the physical distance between the artists continuing to enrich their collaborative work. The journey each thought and action makes, reaffirms the idea of cross-cultural dialogue, as they pursue an exploration of ideas and objects associated with language, borders, historical and personal references between France, the UK and the wider world.

The exhibition is supported by: macbirmingham, Arts Council England, Birmingham City Council, Oxford Brookes University.

Peter Grego 08.09.2016