

Homeland

Homeland is a month-long project presenting artists’ work in everyday locations around the centre of Exeter. Organised by Spacex and Relational Projects, this series of contemporary art exhibitions, interventions, performances and events essentially asks the question “What is Middle England?” The project is sited at Spacex Gallery, the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Habitat, the Blue Boy Gift Shop and East to West in Princesshay, and a number of empty shops in Paris Street, vacant prior to re-development by Land Securities.

Increasingly politicians, advertising and the media refer to ‘Middle England’ as if it were an accepted everyday definition, and yet its underlying criteria remain unclear. The question of who is able to consider themselves a part of Middle England, for example, is ambiguous. One aim of the project is to examine the construction of a cultural hegemony around this peculiarly English, class-bound model of community, with its strong sense of belonging and ownership, and thus its equivalent sense of exclusivity and resistance to change.

Homeland includes artists commissioned to either make new works or show existing pieces in everyday contexts for the first time. The project is presented in association with Arts Council England’s decibel initiative, “raising the voice of culturally diverse arts in Britain”.



A Spacex / Relational project presented, as part of the Middle England Series, in association with Arts Council England’s decibel initiative, “raising the voice of culturally diverse arts in Britain”.

17 APRIL – 15 MAY	17 APRIL – 29 MAY
12, 20 & 22 PARIS STREET Caroline Bergvall, Ansuman Biswas, Jyll Bradley, Lisa Cheung, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Jenny Mellings, Misha Myers, Rosalind Nashashibi, Quack-Project	ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM Introspect Oladélé Ajiboyé Bamgboyé
THE BLUE BOY GIFT SHOP Grayson Perry	17 APRIL – 12 JUNE
EAST TO WEST Ansuman Biswas & Jem Finer	SPACEX GALLERY i can c my way home Tariq Alvi and Michael Curran with Jeremy Akerman, Gail Burton, Michele Dendy, Ana Fonseca, Marc Hulson, Serena Korda, Geoffrey Preston, Alex Schady, Show & Tell and others
HABITAT When in Rome II Daniel Baker, Suki Chan, Nooshin Farhid, Amanda Francis, Raimi Gbadamosi, Takafumi Homma, Ronee Hui, Silia KaTung, Margareta Kern, Maria Meade, Agnes Poitevin-Navarre, Harold Offeh, Paul O’Kane, Yewande Okuleye, Raymond Yap	Please see map inside for details of locations
HOMELAND / SPACEX STAFF are available at 12, 20 and 22 Paris Street, and at the gallery to discuss the work at all times during the project	OPENING TIMES All sites are open Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm
	ADMISSION FREE
	ACCESS Spacex is fully accessible for visitors using wheelchairs, prams and buggies. Please telephone other locations for information about access
	Bus 0870 6082608 Train 08457 484950

SPACEX relational

45 Preston Street, Exeter EX1 1DF, UK www.relational.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1392 431786
mail@spacex.co.uk
www.spacex.co.uk

Spacex is a registered charity no. 1054163, supported by Arts Council England, Exeter City Council and Devon County Council



Front: Grayson Perry, Storm Brewing, 2002.
courtesy of the artist / Victoria Miro Gallery, London

SPACEX

relational

Homeland

A contemporary art project in everyday locations around Exeter city centre

17 APRIL – 15 MAY 2004

TARIQ ALVI
OLADELÉ AJIBOYÉ BAMGBOYÉ
CAROLINE BERGVALL
ANSUMAN BISWAS
JYLL BRADLEY
LISA CHEUNG
MICHAEL CURRAN
JEM FINER
GUILLERMO GÓMEZ-PEÑA
JENNY MELLINGS
MISHA MYERS
ROSALIND NASHASHIBI
GRAYSON PERRY
QUACK-PROJECT
WRIGHTS & SITES
+ WHEN IN ROME II

THE MIDDLE ENGLAND SERIES
www.spacex.co.uk
www.relational.org.uk

PERFORMANCES

Misha Myers



YODEL RODEO
Saturday 17 April, High Noon to High Tea
Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery,
Local History galleries, and city centre streets

Myers’ persona, Buffalo Sue, reframes the old Roman walls of Exeter into a rodeo corral. City dignitaries

and citizens once walked the walls annually to name and shame any transgressor of the security and prestige they upheld. Tracing their steps and cheers with renegade rodeo pageantry, the cowgirl rounds up the herds of the city with her Texas lullabies and line dance interludes performed by Exeter’s Montgomery Mavericks. You can follow along both remotely over a 3-D map of the old city at the Museum, or in the city centre streets.

LONESOME LONG GONE
Saturday 15 May, High Noon to High Tea
Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery,
Natural History galleries

Myers presents Buffalo Sue alongside the Museum’s exhibit of a North American Bison. Her contemporary and global Wild West show follows a trail stretching infinitely ahead and out of sight, past motorway exits to shopping malls, desert battlefields, inter-galactic space stations and multinational corporate frontiers.

Wrights & Sites Blue Boy Walks



SUBURBAN HOMESICK BLUES
Saturday 24 April, 11am

Caught between two versions of Middle England, Exeter and Winchester, a blue maid dreams of a blue boy and vice versa. Version two of this walk will take place in Winchester, on 28 April.

TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANT TO THE CORPORATION
Tuesday 4 May, 1.36 - 2.50am

An audio walk on the anniversary of Exeter’s Blitz, inspired by a found, personal account of the post-war rebuild by an unknown Exeter resident. Meet promptly at 1.30am and bring a personal CD player.

THE GIFT
Saturday 17 April, 11am

The displaced, shrapnel-scarred Blue Boy stands alone. To this orphan landmark for shoppers, we come bearing carrier bags of gifts, the colour of the sky.

HAT AND BOOK
Saturday 8 May, 11am

Law courts on a volcano, concrete tunnels through abstract Princesshay: Middle Exeter’s psychogeography and beyond... Come dressed in blue and with plenty of time.

YOU ARE HERE
Saturday, 15 May, 12 noon
Black Box, Exeter Phoenix

A free presentation about the company’s publication, An Exeter Mis-Guide (www.mis-guide.com) that encourages the experience of getting “lost and loving it”. Followed by an optional, short walk to pay homage to the Blue Boy. Presented as part of tEXt festival 04.

Wrights & Sites are Stephen Hodge, Simon Persighetti, Phil Smith and Cathy Turner.

Limited places available
Please book in advance by contacting
Hannah Reeves 01392 431786 /
mail@spacex.co.uk All walks are free and
start at the Blue Boy statue in Princesshay,
except **You Are Here**.

SYMPOSIUM

IN AND OUT OF MIDDLE ENGLAND
Friday 30 April - Saturday 1 May
Exeter Phoenix, Bradninch Place,
Gandy Street

A two-day symposium which aims to provide a critical platform for current ‘cultural diversity’ debates and to examine related socially-engaged concerns within contemporary visual arts. Presented by decibel Arts Council South West and organised in partnership with Spacex and Picture This.

Delegate fee £20 including tickets for all events. To book contact the decibel Administrator, Arts Council England South West 01392 229230 / decibel.sw@artscouncil.org.uk

WORKSHOPS

EX4
A series of text and print-making workshops for people who live, work or study in the postal code area EX4. These free Spacex workshops are held in partnership with Exeter CVS.

THREADS
Spacex outreach project with Exeter Islamic Centre. Participants will look at local and diverse textile traditions, exploring links with cultural identity. An exhibition of work produced will take place in the Autumn. To take part in EX4 or to attend the Threads project launch at Exeter Islamic Centre on Tuesday 11 May, contact Hannah Reeves on 01392 431786.

Homeland is a Spacex/Relational project, curated by Tom Trevor and Zoë Shearman. Assistant curator, Raimi Gbadamosi.

Projects out of Spacex co-ordinated by Relational. Technical/Site Manager, Caroline Mawdsley. Spacex co-ordinators, Hannah Reeves (education & outreach), Lara West (finance) and Hannah Wingrave (exhibitions & marketing).

Supported by Arts Council England, as part of the decibel initiative, and the Henry Moore Foundation. Sponsored by Land Securities PLC in partnership with Arts & Business South West.

Organised in partnership with Exeter City Council, the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Habitat UK Ltd, East to West, The Blue Boy Gift Shop, Picture This, South West Screen, Wrights and Sights, tEXt festival 04, the Institute of Digital Art & Technology, Dartington College of Arts and the University of Plymouth.

Oladélé Ajiboyé Bamgboyé’s Unmasking 3 is a FACT commission, co-produced with John Moores University and the Institute of Digital Art & Technology, funded by the Millennium Festival Fund and developed in partnership with National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside.

WHAT IS MIDDLE ENGLAND?

Sarat Maharaj, art historian and co-curator of Documenta XI
Kodwo Eshun, writer and researcher
Susan Pui San Lok, artist and writer
Discussion chaired by Raimi Gbadamosi, artist and curator

INVESTIGATING HISTORIES

Artists presentations of current archive-based projects
Oladélé Ajiboyé Bamgboyé, Ansuman Biswas and Erika Tan

MIGRATIONS

A programme of artists films, including work by Marine Hugonnier, Uyen Luu, Rosalind Nashashibi and Alia Syed, followed by a discussion with participating artists

PARADISE OMEROS

the latest film by Isaac Julien

RE-BOP SESSION a live multi-media performance by Soul Jazz Sound System and Jonnie Williams

GUIDED TOURS

HOMELAND
Friday 30 April 10.30am
Starting at Exeter Phoenix, Bradninch Place,
Gandy Street

A guided tour of Homeland, led by the project curators, Tom Trevor and Zoë Shearman.

WHEN IN ROME II
Saturday 8 May 11am
Habitat, 21-22 Queen Street

Raimi Gbadamosi, co-curator and artist, leads a tour of the exhibition.

Caroline Bergvall’s Your Number’s Up is supported by Creative Connections Fund, DCA. Ansuman Biswas’ Season is commissioned by Picture This, Dartington Arts and The South West Film and Television Archive, and funded by South West Screen. Ansuman Biswas and Jem Finer’s Zero Genie is commissioned by The Arts Catalyst, and funded by London Arts Board. Michael Curran’s i can c my way home is commissioned by Spacex, Picture This and South West Screen, and funded by Arts Council England’s National Touring Programme and South West Screen. Misha Myers’ Lonesome Long Gone is supported by tEXt festival 04. The Quack-Project is produced by Signwave UK, Middlesex University and Kahve-Society, and Cockney and Cornish Duck’s Dialect(ic) co-produced by the Institute of Digital Art & Technology and Performance Research Journal.

With thanks to Emma Blackwell, Cabinet Gallery, Neville Chambers, David England, Jake Ferguson, John Harvey, Yvonne Hayes, Kari Hensley, Stephen Hodge, Ceri Johnson, Polly Macpherson, Nola Mariano, Tim Miles, Zoe Li, Tom Pales, David Paterson, Simon Persighetti, Janet Phare, Mike Phillips, Picture This, Kimberley Rainford, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Mariam Sharp, Mike Strover, Josie Sutcliffe, Emma Underhill, Victoria Miro Gallery, Mark Wallace, Sam Wilkinson, and all the interpreters and technicians.

LOCATION

ROYAL ALBERT
MEMORIAL MUSEUM
& ART GALLERY

Queen Street, tel. 01392 665858
www.exeter.gov.uk/museums
World Cultures galleries
(continues until 29 May 2004)

INTROSPECT

Oladélé Ajiboyé Bamgboyé



Introspect (2003) contrasts Western perceptions of Africa with images of the day-to-day experience of living in Nigeria. As part of his Exeter-based project, Bamgboyé has re-edited archive film footage donated by local residents, who have lived both in Devon and Nigeria. He also presents Unmasking 3, a new digital commission, alongside the World Cultures display of a Benin head.

HABITAT



WHEN IN ROME II

Daniel Baker, Suki Chan, Nooshin Farhid, Amanda Francis, Raimi Gbadamosi, Takafumi Homma, Ronee Hui, Paul Jones, Silia KaTung, Margareta Kern, Maria Meade, Agnes Poitevin-Navarre, Harold Offeh, Paul O’Kane, Yewande Okuleye, Raymond Yap

When in Rome is an ongoing project, curated by Raimi Gbadamosi and Amanda Francis, which aims to function as a critical platform for ‘culturally diverse’ artists to consider their practice and profession. When in Rome II is presented as part of the Homeland project, showing new works in the context of Habitat, Exeter, addressing issues of modernism and the supposed universality of form. There is also a project book, published to accompany the exhibition with new page works by each of the artists showing at Habitat.

SPACEX GALLERY



45 Preston Street, tel. 01392 431786
(continues until 12 June 2004)

i can c my way home

Tariq Alvi and Michael Curran
with Jeremy Akerman, Gail Burton, Michele Dendy, Ana Fonseca, Marc Hulson, Serena Korda, Geoffrey Preston, Alex Schady, Show & Tell and others

Tariq Alvi creates open-ended accumulations and collages of images, cut-out from magazines or brochures, as a kind of visual free association. The juxtapositions are often provocative, sometimes using sexual imagery, in a celebration of fantasy and chaos. Working in collaboration, Alvi and Curran present an installation that explores the underbelly of Middle England, with guest contributions by artists and friends.

Michael Curran also presents a new film, i can c my way home, as a two screen video installation that contrasts Killerton House, a thriving National Trust property near Exeter, and the neighbouring Poltimore House, a ruin fast falling into a state of utter dilapidation. Each space defines and defies the other – decay and dereliction counter-pointing order and upkeep.

THE BLUE BOY
GIFT SHOP

22-24 Princesshay
tel. 01392 258013
www.blueboygifts.co.uk

Grayson Perry

Turner Prize-winner, Perry presents a pot entitled Storm Brewing (2002), in the context of the Blue Boy Gift Shop, a specialist china and glass retailer. Perry’s work combines the traditions of fine and decorative arts with compelling personal and social themes, in an uncompromising investigation of the cultural stereotypes which lie at the heart of Middle England.

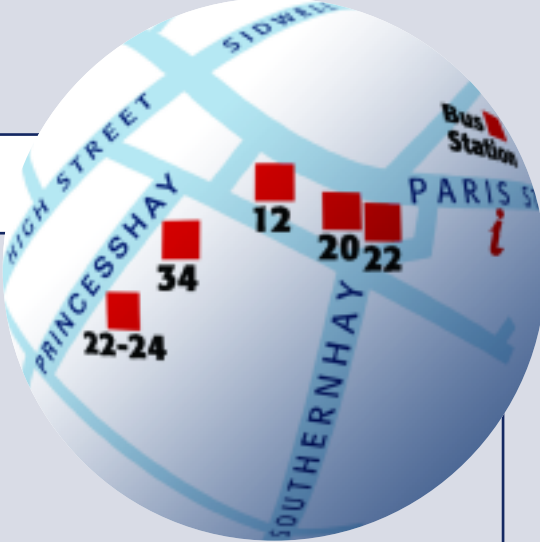
EAST TO WEST



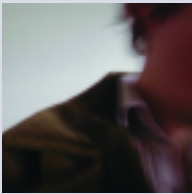
34 Princesshay, tel. 01392 413555

Ansuman Biswas & Jem Finer

In the film Zero Genie (2001), presented in the window of East to West (which sells hand crafted Indonesian furniture and gifts), Biswas and Finer fly in zero gravity conditions, dressed as genies, at the Uri Gagarin Cosmonaut’s Training Facility in Star City, Moscow. They dance, levitate, and reveal, for the very first time in the West, the mythical Flying Carpet.



12, 20 & 22 PARIS STREET



Caroline Bergvall

Your Number's Up Do you have a favourite number? Do you avoid travelling on certain dates? What does zero mean? In more ways than 1, numbers shape the ways we relate to the world. Poet and site-artist Bergvall will work for 3 days (13 - 15 May) in the old betting shop, with sound duo Liminal, to record your answers to questionnaires, numerical games and symbolic patterns. These soundings will be incorporated into a nocturnal public event in Exeter this Autumn.



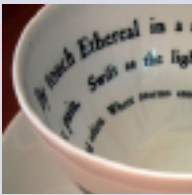
Ansuman Biswas

Season, a new four-screen video installation, is part of a series of works exploring the multiple links between Bengal and Devon, and between past and future, including footage from the South West Film and Television Archive and autobiographical material from India.



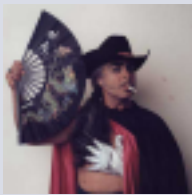
Jyll Bradley

Fragrant, Exeter is a site-specific floral installation made in collaboration with Janet Phare, a flower arranger from Exeter Cathedral. Fragrant, Exeter draws upon the traditions of English church flower arranging, a popular ‘art of the everyday’, but created within the confines of a city centre shop. The installation combines local Devon foliage with ‘exotic’ orchids and anthuriums, to create a stunning hybrid arrangement.



Lisa Cheung

The Great Wall of china is a participatory project that attempts to record the faces of Middle England. A broad range of Exeter citizens, including passers-by, are invited to have their photograph taken for the collection in the Portrait Studio (open 17 April – 1 May). These portraits will then be transferred onto a set of commemorative plates that celebrate the people that make up Exeter’s changing and vibrant society. The plates will eventually make up The Great Wall of china, to be exhibited in the Autumn.



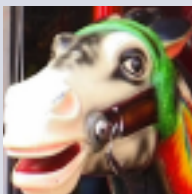
Guillermo Gómez-Peña

Ethno-Techno: Los Video Graffitis (2004) consists of approximately 30 ‘video graffitis’, or short performance video segments, by celebrated Latino-American artist Gómez-Peña and the performance group La Pocha Nostra. They range in length from thirty seconds to three minutes. This body of work deals with critical contemporary issues such as globalization, immigration, the politics of language, censorship, race relations, the commodification of ethnicity, Latinos in the media, and the digital divide.



Jenny Mellings

A new animated film, resulting from Mellings’ residency at SpaceX as part of which she worked with local groups focusing on everyday life in Exeter. “The subject is the High Street, which resembles a fickle stream - dry river bed at the dead of night or flash flood on a Saturday morning.”



Misha Myers (see Performances)

Buffalo Sue’s Wild West is an installation that incorporates ephemera and video documentation of Myers performance Yodel Rodeo, and the video Pain Town, which follows the cowgirl’s journey to the wild West Country seaside town of Paignton, with its amusement arcades and ‘hill-billy’ shooting gallery on the pier, made with video maker Gillian Wylde.



Rosalind Nashashibi

Beck’s Futures-winner, Nashashibi presents The States of Things (2000), a 16mm black and white film transferred to DVD, in which a Salvation Army jumble sale at Maryhill in Glasgow is set to the sound track of an old Egyptian love song by Um Kolthoum, In Hali Fi Hawaha Agab.



The Quack-Project

An interactive CD-ROM which asks the question: “Do ducks quack in the same way all over the world?” featuring the voices of nursery children from over 20 London schools, making animal noises in a wide range of languages that reflect the capital’s cultural diversity. These sounds mingle with a new work, Cockney and Cornish Duck’s Dialect(ic), featuring conversation between Cockney and Cornish ducks.

If you would like to take part in *Your Number's Up* or the *Great Wall of china* please contact Hannah Reeves on 01392 431786