



The Migrant Festival

A four day festival
fusing visual art, music,
film and performance

IKON

Thursday 30 May
- Sunday 2 June 2019

The movement of people and materials — happening more than ever now through globalisation — was dramatically accelerated in the nineteenth century through the spread of the British Empire, with an assumed set of values personified by Queen Victoria. Consequently there are statues of this diminutive woman all over the world, in Guyana as in the UK. The omnipresence of her likeness has inspired British artist Hew Locke to want to dress and “re-present” the statue in Birmingham’s Victoria Square so that it becomes “an object of veneration, a fetish, decorated with charms, necklaces, marigolds, trade-beads, medals, foliage, weapons, rosettes, trophies, ex-voto, jewels, fabrics, etc”. These and other more sizeable additions, such as the boat with cargo from which she arises, surrounded by smaller bronzed versions of herself, will transform Victoria into a kind of floating voodoo queen.

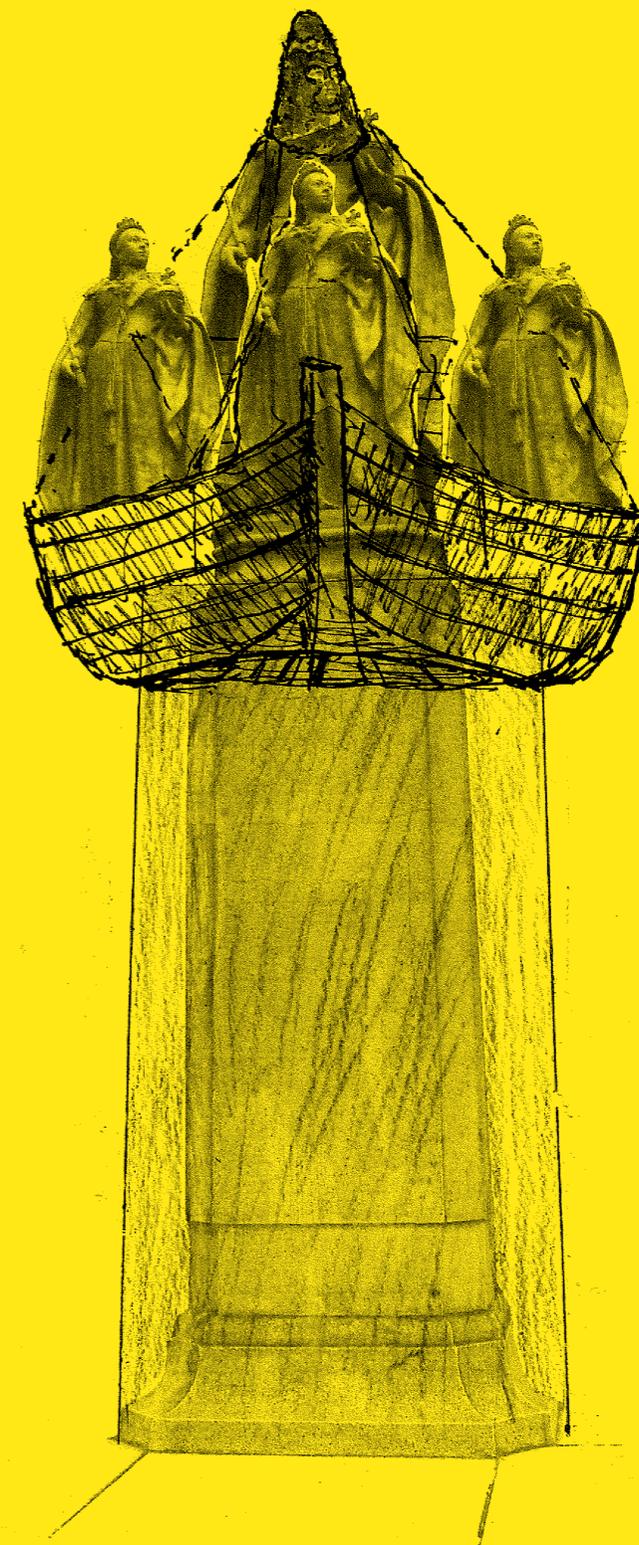
She was originally sculpted in marble at the start of the twentieth century and subsequently featured in various military parades and public demonstrations. Recast by members of Birmingham School of Art in 1951 and unveiled by the then Princess Elizabeth, today the statue is too often taken for granted. Ikon proposes that it is re-activated, as a piece of cultural heritage, in good time for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

The Migrant Festival occurs during the last four days of Hew Locke’s exhibition, *Here’s The Thing*, at Ikon. It includes *Armada* (2019), an installation of suspended galleons, cruisers, lifeboats and rafts, conflating historic and contemporary migratory trends. Amidst the flock is the *Empire Windrush*, symbolic of a mass movement of people from the Caribbean to the UK between 1948–1971. *The Migrant Festival* starts with this history, whilst providing a platform for individuals to speak about Brexit and share their plans for Refugee Week 2019.

Jonathan Watkins

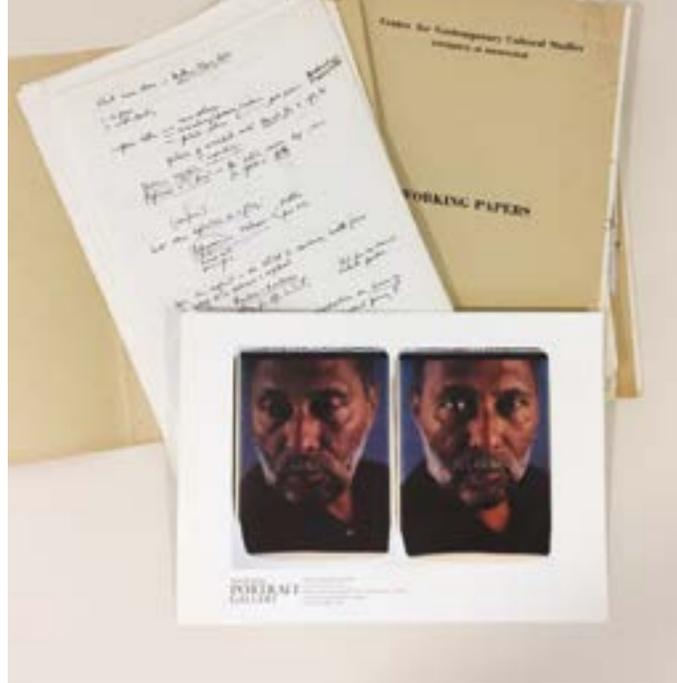
Like most people, it never occurred to me that the Windrush issue was not settled, that it was even an issue at all ... This stuff is so hard to talk about, I get angry. Now, in the light of what we’re facing with Brexit and ideas of national identity, I’m rethinking Britishness in different ways, saying to myself “OK Hew, so we’re not as accepted as we thought we were”, and that’s disturbing. This is one of the things that motivates me to make work, to get up in the morning and head down to the studio.

Hew Locke



Hew Locke *Preparatory drawing for Queen Victoria, sketch 4* (2018)
Courtesy the artist

Thursday 30 May



Stuart Hall's Archive

Talk — Introducing Stuart Hall's Archive Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham, 1-2pm — FREE Booking essential

Stuart Hall's archive recently arrived at the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Research Library. At this lunch-time seminar, archivist Dr Helen Fisher and historian Dr Rob Waters introduce the archive, and how its holdings relate to the history of political activism and black intellectual work in Birmingham.

Talk — Jon Bloomfield and Vanley Burke Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm — £3 Booking essential

Author Jon Bloomfield's latest book *Our City: Migrants and the Making of Modern Birmingham* (Unbound, 2019), features a photograph by Vanley Burke on its front cover. The author and artist exchange notes on their research into and experience of migration to Birmingham from all corners of the world and how this has influenced the economy and culture of the city.

Film — *The Colony* Ikon Gallery, 7-8pm — £3 Booking essential

Directed by Philip Donnellan and broadcast on the BBC, *The Colony* (1964) was filmed in Birmingham, giving a voice to working-class settlers from the Caribbean. A railwayman from Saint Kitts, a bus conductor from Jamaica, a family of singers from Trinidad and a nurse from Barbados articulate their experiences of Britain. With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive.



The Colony (1964)
Courtesy the BBC



Katarzyna Perlak *Niolam Ja Se Kochaneczke* (2016)
Courtesy the artist

Family Workshop — *Crows on the Canal Slow Boat, Brindleyplace 1-3pm — £3 Booking essential, places limited*

Join artist Matthew Krishanu on *Slow Boat* for a drawing workshop inspired by his crow paintings. While *Slow Boat* tours Birmingham's canals, participants draw crows that take flight as they decorate the windows of the moving boat.

Talk — *Creative Conversations with Polish Women* Yorks Café, 3-4pm — £3, includes a drink Booking essential

Coinciding with Brexit, we analyse the artistic practices of Polish artists who have made Britain their home, including artists, curators and creatives Joanna Gemes, Founder and Director of l'étrangère, Karolina Korupczynska, Founder and Co-Director of Stryx, Sylwia Krason, Founder and Director of Contemporary Lynx and Katarzyna Perlak, artist.

Friday 31 May

Talk — Rt Hon David Lammy MP and Hew Locke Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm — £3 Booking essential

Both sharing Caribbean heritage, David Lammy and Hew Locke discuss the meaning of 'Home'. David Lammy has been the Labour Member of Parliament for his home constituency of Tottenham since 2000 and is one of Parliament's most prominent and successful campaigners for social justice including leading the campaign for Windrush British citizens to be granted British citizenship.



David Lammy

Saturday 1 June

Family Workshop — Imagery and Ornament Ikon Gallery, 12-4pm — FREE, drop in

Join artist Farwa Moledina to create embellished imagery in response to Hew Locke's installation *The Nameless* (2010), reminiscent of a medieval tapestry, and *Souvenirs* (2018-19), busts of the royal family heavily decorated by the artist.

Performance — Currents: Empire and Migration Slow Boat, 2-4pm — FREE, drop in

Referencing Hew Locke's *Armada* (2019), artist Jane Thakoordin, Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) and the Barber Collective decorate *Slow Boat*. It floats between Ikon and the Barber Institute of Fine Art in order to locate Idia, the first queen mother of Benin.



Hew Locke *Armada* (2019)
Courtesy: the artist, photograph by Tom Bird

Music — Celebrating Sanctuary present Germa Adan Ikon Gallery, 3-5pm — FREE, drop in

Germa Adan is a Haitian folk artist known for her ability to write and perform in the style of a storyteller with a strong undercurrent of social consciousness at the heart of her music. Adan performs throughout Ikon, transforming the spaces with her music.

Talk — Hew Locke in conversation Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm — £3 Booking essential

Hew Locke discusses his Ikon exhibition with Hammad Nasar, Executive Director of The Stuart Hall Foundation. They consider Locke's interest and interventional approach to cultural heritage, including his installation on board HMS *Belfast*.

Music — The Diskery Yorks Café at Ikon, 7-10pm — FREE, drop in

Ikon teams up again with local independent record shop The Diskery (est. 1952), for a celebration of second-hand vinyl with Roots Reggae, Ska and Dub on rotation.

Sunday 2 June

Talk — Handsworth Self Portrait: Forty Years On Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), 2-3pm — FREE Booking essential

In 1979 Derek Bishton, Brian Homer and John Reardon created a pop up photography studio on the street outside their community design and photography office in Handsworth. This event marks the end of the exhibition with a talk by Bishton.

Fashion Parade — with Osman Yousefzada Meet at The Rotunda, 2-3pm — FREE, drop in

Designer Osman Yousefzada leads a fashion parade through the city centre, featuring his spring/ summer collection. Visit Ikon's website for route.

Music — Celebrating Sanctuary present Rihab Azar Trio Ikon Gallery, 3-4pm — FREE, drop in

Rihab Azar Trio take the audience on a journey through rich sounds of both classical and contemporary Middle-Eastern music performed by oud player Rihab Azar, upright-bassist Dudley Phillips and percussionist Corrina Silvester.



The Last Angel of History (1995)
Courtesy John Akomfrah
and LUX, London



Saffiyah Khan wearing
Osman Yousefzada (2018)

Talk — Soapbox & Shawarma Yorks Café at Ikon, 4-6pm — £6 Includes food by Yorks Booking essential

20 quick-fire soapbox presentations from individuals and groups supporting migrants in the Midlands, including plans for this year's Refugee Week with its theme 'You, me and those who came before'. Chaired by Liz Clegg, Founder of the Meena Centre.

Talk — Living with Difference Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm — £3 Booking essential

Gilane Tawadros, author of *The Sphinx Contemplating Napoleon* (Bloomsbury, 2019), chairs a discussion with Black Audio Film Collective member Trevor Mathison and Dubmorphology collaborator Gary Stewart, who discuss key themes including the fear of difference in science fiction and how black British artists in the 1990s were represented.

Film — The Last Angel of History Ikon Gallery, 7-8pm — £3 Booking essential

Directed by John Akomfrah and produced by Lina Gopaul, *The Last Angel of History* (1995) is a sci-fi documentary about Africa, history and memory, demonstrating Black Audio Film Collective's exploration of the chromatic possibilities of digital video embedded within a mythology of the future.

Book online at ikon-gallery.org or call Ikon on 0121 248 0708

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham B1 2HS
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708

Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm
Free entry, donations welcome

Please consider making a donation for free events. Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do.

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Hew Locke: Here's the Thing is supported by the Ikon Investment Fund and organised by Ikon Gallery, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and Colby College Museum of Art.

Thank you to all our partners and supporters who have made this festival possible.

   @ikongallery #TheMigrantFestival



Hew Locke: Here's the Thing is accompanied by a fully illustrated exhibition catalogue including interviews with Hew Locke and Ikon's Director Jonathan Watkins, installation photography and texts by Diana Tuite, Katz Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Colby College Museum of Art and Richard Drayton, Rhodes Professor of Imperial History, King's College London.

Available instore and online from Ikon Shop:
ikon-gallery.org/shop



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