



University of Dundee

Connect:Katowice

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16 May 2017

Connect: Katowice and London – June 2017

We proudly present Connect: Katowice and London, a cross-cultural arts/creative collaboration between nearly 30 UK and Polish artists and curators, who present exhibitions, workshops, education, and more, in order learn and share each other's across culture, language, and art across geographic boundaries.

Find out more: www.connectkatowice.com

WHEN: 28th May through 17th June 2017

ARTISTS RESIDENCY: 28th May through 1st June 2017

EXHIBITION: 3rd through 17th June 2017

PV: 2nd June 2017, 7-10PM

WHERE: Centred in Galeria Rondo Sztuki (Rondo Gallery), Rondo im. gen. Jerzego Ziętka 1, 40-001 Katowice, Poland

OPEN HOURS: Open hours: Tues – Fri 11am-19pm, Sat – Sun 10am-18pm

LEAD CURATOR: Oksana Smirnova (smirnovarts.wordpress.com)

PROJECT COORDINATORS:

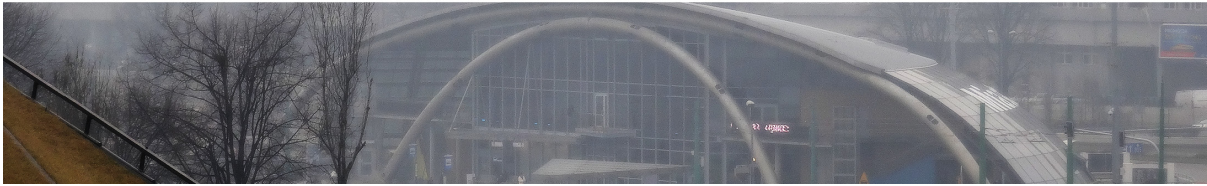
Pawel Mendrek (www.mendrek.eu) – Poland/ASP Academy of Fine Arts, Katowice

Alex Roberts (www.alexroberts.com) – UK, Lead Artist

Kelise Franclemont (www.kelisefranclemont.com) - UK

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: Paul Abbott, Marilyn Collins, Marcin Czarnopyś, Sarah Faulkner, Kelise Franclemont, Dagmara Jemioła-Hryniewicka, Karina Kałuża, Wojtek Kazimierczak, Angelina Kornecka, Ewa Kozera, Monika Krasoń, Izabela Łęska, Agata Leżuch, Joseph Lichy, Shadi Mahsa, Mariusz Maślanka, Monika Mysiak, Regan O'Callaghan, Aga Piotrowska-Jaworek, Alex Roberts, Magda Sierpińska, Sybilla Skałuba, Jonathan Slaughter, Agata Szymanek, Louise Wheeler, Joanna Zdzienicka, Adam Żółtowski

Please see: www.connectkatowice.com/artists for more details

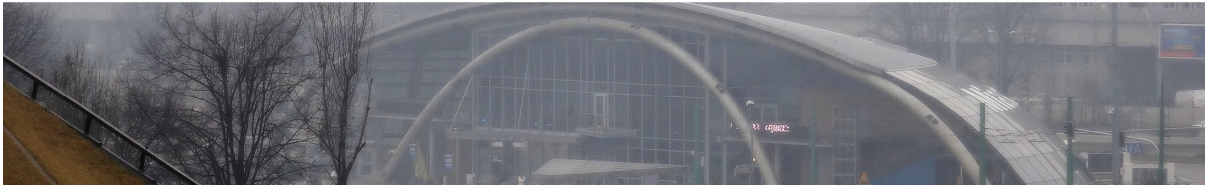


Exhibition forward by Oksana Smirnova, Lead Curator of Connect: Katowice

“After almost two years of hard work we are happy to welcome you to the grand finale of the project Connect:Katowice at Rondo Gallery. The project is presented by a series of British and Polish artists' partnerships from Chelsea College of Arts in London and Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice, curated by Oksana Smirnova and Pawel Mendrek. The dialogue between the artists and curators started in September 2015, and aimed to question the foundational role of perception in understanding their own worlds and the worlds of others. These discussions were followed by the period of artists' online and offline meetings, conversations, and building of connections, which resulted in a collective, introductory art exhibition in December 2016 at Hornsey Town Hall Art Centre in London. The research process and organic evolution of the project then continued for a further 6 months, culminating as an art festival and finale in June 2017 at the Rondo Gallery and other venues in Katowice.

Connect:Katowice project aims to show the audience how beneficial intercultural communication can be and reflects the interconnection of the roles of artists and curators coming from very different backgrounds. The project investigates and addresses a variety of subjects; some of the artists have been exploring the theme of Polish-British migration during the WWII and how it influenced those involved in the migration process and their further generations; other artists have been interested in studying each other's lands, their hidden traces, and folklore. And most importantly, all artists have been exchanging the artistic techniques and experience that they each gained in their homelands.

We strongly believe that the result of the project was very beneficial for the artists and the curators involved in it. The progress of the collaboration process was moving in various directions, both expected and unexpected. Sometimes smooth, sometimes resistant, the results were great pieces of art being created by both groups and individuals under the influence of the collaborative process. Forming a collective within the institution also continues to be very advantageous for all parties in that a pro-active collective makes it easier to bring the initiatives forward. Therefore, as an evolving group of creatives, and a rich platform for interdisciplinary exchange, we aim to continue stretching our boundaries by organising various experimental collaborations in future and by potentially presenting Connect:Vienna, Connect:Budapest, Connect:Berlin, and more.”



Editor's notes:

CONNECT: KATOWICE AND LONDON IS KINDLY SUPPORTED BY:

- Arts Council England & British Council: The Artists' International Development Fund

With additional support from:

- [The City of Katowice, Poland](#)
- [Culture.PL](#)
- [WROART Center, Wroclaw, Poland](#)
- [Muzeum Historii Katowic \[Museum of the History of Katowice\]](#)
- [The City of Żory, Poland](#)
- [Fundacja Kultura Obrazu \[Image Culture Foundation\], Katowice, Poland](#)
- [Gmina Psary, Poland](#)

CONNECT: KATOWICE AND LONDON'S

PROJECT COORDINATION KINDLY PROVIDED BY:

- Oksana Smirnova (Lead Curator, UK)
- Alex Roberts (Project Administrator, Funding Facilitator, AIDF's lead artist, UK)
- Kelise Franclemont (Project Administrator, PR/Media Coordinator, UK)
- Pawel Mendrek (Project Coordinator – ASP Academy of Fine Arts, Katowice, Poland)

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITY PARTNERS:

- Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK
- ASP Academy of Fine Arts, Katowice, Poland

CONNECT: KATOWICE AND LONDON EXHIBITED AT:

- Ply Gallery, Hornsey Town Hall, London (December 2016)
- Rondo Gallery, Katowice, Poland (June 2016)

ADDITIONAL PROJECT SUPPORT FROM:

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- Kelise Franclemont (UK)