



Peckham Promenade

Janette Parris at Peckham Platform | 21 January – 25 March 2016

Peckham Platform is delighted to announce that Janette Parris, an acclaimed artist who lives and works in South East London, will create new work based on the people of Peckham for the gallery's first exhibition in 2016.

Peckham Promenade will take inspiration from the characters, lives and daily interactions of the people living, working in and visiting Peckham's bustling Rye Lane. Parris will depict the stories she encountered whilst conversing with local residents and traders on the busy street. A long and colourful streetscape will be applied directly to the gallery walls depicting the rich culture of everyday life in Peckham's vibrant town centre, whilst a video piece will animate some of the conversations Parris has had during a series of digital portraiture and animation workshops with Year 10 students at Harris Academy Peckham.

This unique location-specific artwork developed throughout 2015, when Parris took to the streets of Peckham to meet local businesses, traders and shoppers with whom she struck up a relationship. It was from here that her digital portraits came to life, depicting the characters that she met on her travels and committing their individual take on Peckham to 'virtual canvas' as it were, only to be redrawn back onto the gallery walls. Next summer the work will be painted onto its final destination: the walls of the Rye Lane - Choumert Grove pedestrian corridor. In total a full 60 metres of street scenes have been created, a small selection of which will be shown in this exhibition.

This observational exploration of Peckham's identity was the starting point for a series of digital portraiture and animation workshops that were led by Parris with Year 10 students at Harris Academy Peckham, the results of which will be featured within the main exhibition.

Emily Druiff said:

"An intuitive sense of character and place is embedded in Janette's practice and I'm very excited to see how having these artworks full scale within the gallery will bring Rye Lane to life for our visitors. Her work is colourful and humorous and will no doubt offer a new and varied insight to the rich cultural life of Peckham."

Janette Parris said:

"I'm delighted to be exhibiting at Peckham Platform, as it gave me the chance to meet and work with the people in the area and portray their lives. A big part of my work is about highlighting the everyday. I wanted to depict the familiar and often enjoyable experience of popping to the shops in Peckham."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- **Janette Parris** is a contemporary visual artist who uses the everyday as the basis for much of her work. She works across different media including: drawing, animation, and performance (musical and theatre). She creates strongly narrative work, often in the form of comic strips, to capture the humorous essence of life, while reflecting a dry and self-effacing look at the world. Her work has been exhibited across the UK and internationally, and in 2003, she was commissioned to produce a series of works for the 'Art on the Underground' programme by London Underground. In 2010, Parris's animated video Talent was shown at Tate Britain's Rude Britannia exhibition. In 2014 Parris was a Connect10 artist for Museums At Night 2014, and her online comic Arch was exhibited in Comics Unmasked, the largest comic exhibition in the UK at the British Library. Janette Parris was part of Vote Art at Peckham Platform in the run up to the general election in April 2015, and was most recently lead artist for contemporary art festival Deptford X. www.archcomic.com
- **Peckham Platform** is a creative and educational charity located in a public gallery on Peckham Square, SE15. Founded as Peckham Space in 2010, it re-launched as an independent organisation in January 2014 and only seven months later was awarded prestigious 'NPO' status by Arts Council England.
As an organisation it believes that communities can inform and shape their engagement with their locality by working with contemporary visual artists. Its programme of commissions creates meaningful and accessible social arts practice for Peckham and beyond, providing an expansive platform for different voices and debate and bringing contemporary social practice alive. www.peckhamplatform.com
- **Harris Academy Peckham** is part of the vibrant and exciting local community of Peckham and this is reflected in the academy's specialisms, which are business and enterprise and the performing arts. All students are encouraged to express themselves through a variety of different mediums such as paint, dance and music and to play a role in the local community through fundraising and community service activities.
- **Sustrans** is a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys they make every day. They work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in. As part of their work Sustrans brings communities together to help them redesign their streets to make them safer and more attractive places to live, where people come first. A full scale public artwork by Parris funded by Sustrans will be unveiled later in 2016 <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/community-street-design>
- **Southwark Council** arts service has a strategic role in the development of culture in the London Borough of Southwark. It advocates for the value of the arts and creative industries, internally and externally, enabling the cultural sector in Southwark to thrive. It offers expertise and guidance on a range of specialist areas, including project and business development, fundraising, premises for cultural use, brokering partnerships, networking, commissioning and public art.
http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200006/arts_in_southwark/1788/arts_team

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