Exhibition: Ballads of Rhinestones & Newcomers

Thursday 30 June, 2022

Ballads of Rhinestones & Newcomers

Artists: Bojana Jankovi?, Tom O'Dea & Frank Sweeney

Wednesday 20 July–Saturday 24 September 2022

Launch: Tuesday 19 July 2022, 7–9pm

The Centre for Contemporary Art is delighted to present our summer exhibition with Bojana Jankovi? and a collaboration between Tom O'Dea and Frank Sweeney. *Ballads of Rhinestones & Newcomers* brings together two counterpointing experiences of the border between the UK and Republic of Ireland at a time when the realities of Brexit are playing out.

2 Channel Land by Frank Sweeney and Tom O'Dea looks at the history of analogue radio and television signals spilling across the borders of these islands. Reflecting the complex spatial territories that were produced by transmitters and their environment, the work takes the form of a radio sculpture that permeates the gallery. Moving through the space using handheld radios, the sculpture presents an archive of audience memories, border pirate radio stations and TV deflector systems built by communities to capture and retransmit signals from across the border.

Bojana Jankovi? is an Eastern European artist based in NI. She explores complex relationships between migration, displaced identities, migrant labour and discrimination. Bojana's socially engaged performances and installation in the exhibition centre the migrant experience of the invisible border in stark contrast to the free-ranging radio signals. Her new work *The Uncommon (Travel Area)* follows public buses as they make their way across the island of Ireland. The buses - run by Translink and Bus Éireann - are everyday evidence of the CTA in action, connecting people across an invisible, frictionless border. That is, as the artist writes, "Unless you are an immigrant. Then you might need a visa. You might need to notify the Gardaí or the Home Office. You might need to do this four times in ten minutes." *The Uncommon* charts the hard border experienced by migrants as it is performed and conjured up daily: every time a bus crosses the border, an immigration stamp is added to the wall in a performance piece by the artist taking place during the launch and final week of the exhibition. During the exhibition's run, the stamps will be made available to immigrants to allow further crossings to be recorded.

A series of events will accompany the exhibition including oral-history collections with Frank Sweeney and Tom O'Dea and performances of *The Uncommon (Travel Area)* by Bojana Jankovi? at the launch of the exhibition on 19 June 2022, 7–8pm and again on 20 September 2022, from noon.

Follow @CCADLD on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Frank Sweeney is an artist with a research-based practice, using found material to approach questions of collective memory, experience and identity through film and sound. Recent work includes *People enjoy my company* ('no_matter_here' at Brightening Air June 2021, Transmediale Berlin Aug 2021, IMMA Sept 2021, Cork International Film Fest Nov 2021, BFI Southbank 2022); *Palace of Purification* (A4 Sounds 2021) film with Claudine Chen, Michelle Doyle, Kerry Guinan, Megan Scott; Cornaleena, film at Musictown Festival with Coilín O'Connell, Kevin Barry, David Kitt, Jennifer Walshe (April 2021).

Recent awards include the EVA International Platform Commission, the Arts Council's Next Generation Award, Film Bursary and Project Award, a Project Studio at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Brightening Air funding 2021, Sligo Artist Panel for 2020-2025, Science Gallery Rapid Residency and a nomination for Best Sound Design at the Irish Theatre Awards.

Tom O'Dea is an artist who works with mixed-media sculpture and social practice to interrogate the political implications of practices and cultures of technology in contemporary society. His work explores

Media:



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ways to understand how different forms of knowledge impact upon our ways of acting and being the world. He is a member of the Orthogonal Methods Group, an art-research group at Trinity College Dublin and a lecturer in the Department of Sculpture and Expanded Practice at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

Ongoing projects include - *the Department of Embedded Knowledge* (Kunstverein Rosa-Luxemburg Plaz, Berlin 2022, The Lab Gallery 2020) and *Free Zone Transmissions* (2022) with Frank Sweeney.

Bojana Jankovi? is an artist, PhD researcher and Visiting Lecturer in Performance Arts at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and part of Migrants in Culture, a network organising for a culture sector without borders. Her performances, texts, installations and non-denominational works have appeared in physical and digital spaces across Europe, including at Tate Modern (London), Center for Art on Migration Politics (Copenhagen) and Tranzit (Bucharest). She is a CCA Research Associate.

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Opening times: Tuesday–Saturday noon–6pm. Free admission.

About CCA Derry~Londonderry:
The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) is a publicly funded space within the historic city walls of Derry~Londonderry. CCA creates opportunities for audiences to experience ambitious, experimental and engaging art and for emerging artists to develop successful careers. CCA fosters a wide range of artistic, curatorial and critical practices through five programme streams: research and production, exhibition- making, public programmes, publishing and residencies.

CCA was a Finalist in Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021, the largest museum prize in the world. CCA was recognised for its resilience and adaptability throughout the pandemic, and their continued effort to support audiences and artists including creating paid opportunities for artists and freelancers when they needed it most.

CCA is a member of Plus Tate: Plus Tate is a network, which comprises 35 cultural institutions – including the Tate galleries – that have strong artistic vision, a focus on contemporary art, outstanding public programming and a commitment to local community engagement through art. Plus Tate aims to support the development of the visual arts across the UK.

Safety: CCA has a range of safety measures to ensure staff and visitors can enjoy exhibitions with the knowledge that every precaution is taken. This includes hand sanitisers at entrances and exits, track and trace, screens and heightened cleaning schedules. All who are able to wear a mask are invited to do so and a dedicated isolation room is available in the event of the onset of symptoms.

For media enquiries: Cecelia Graham, Marketing and Digital Programmes Coordinator (interim) for CCA Derry~Londonderry - 10-12 Artillery Street, Derry~Londonderry, BT48 6RG, Northern Ireland

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View Online

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