SMILING, SWEATING AND RESISTING OPENS AT CCA DERRY~LONDONDERRY

Friday 2 November, 2018

Smiling, Sweating and Resisting
Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca, Mitch Conlon, Sonia Boyce, Susan Connolly
27 October – 21 December 2018

Smiling, Sweating and Resisting is a group exhibition of works that circulate around the idea of the carnival and its promiscuous, politically-charged performances. The exhibition departs from the Halloween celebrations in Derry, where suppressed divisions and counternarratives to the conflict of the last 50 years can be seen to emerge in distorted forms, carnivalesque inversions and the overlay of dissonant symbolic systems.

Works in the exhibition use carnival and the carnivalesque to think through the conditions of plantation life and sugar production in the Caribbean and their dependence on the transatlantic slave trade (Sonia Boyce); the nascent bashment, hip hop and dancehall scenes in Belfast in the early 2000s (Mitch Conlon); and the intersection of vernacular culture, gender and socio-economic issues in northern Brazil, as embodied in ‘Frevo’ dance traditions (Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca).

Inspired by these works and the visual vocabulary of the carnival, Susan Connolly’s exhibition design uses ‘process’ colours at an outsize scale to consider the slippage between the precision of printing and the imperfections inherent in the handmade.

Events accompanying the exhibition include peer critique, artist surgeries and CCA’s reading group booksvscigarettes.

Visit cca-derry-londonderry.org/exhibitions/smiling-sweating-and-resisting for the full list.

About CCA:
Centre for Contemporary Art Derry~Londonderry (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.

Mission: CCA creates opportunities for audiences to experience ambitious, experimental and engaging art, and for emerging artists to develop successful careers. We welcome artists and projects with a connection to our region and collaborate with others to strengthen the arts, locally, nationally and internationally.

CCA is supported by Arts Council Northern Ireland and Derry City and Strabane District Council.

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