
Press release

Call me by my name: stories from Calais and beyond

2 June–22 June at Londonewcastle Project Space, 28 Redchurch Street, London E2 7DP

The Calais camp has become a potent symbol of Europe’s migration crisis. Public opinion on this ever-evolving shantytown and its inhabitants is polarised: to some a threatening bunch seeking entry to our overstretched island-nation, to others a shameful symbol of our failed foreign policy. Amid such intense debate, it is easy to lose sight of the tens of thousands of individuals who have found themselves in limbo in Calais, each with their own story and reasons for wanting to reach Britain.

Call me by my name: stories from Calais and beyond is a ground-breaking multimedia exhibition, to be staged by the Migration Museum Project in London in June, a momentous month that sees both the EU referendum and Refugee Week. It explores the complexity and human stories behind the current migration crisis, with a particular focus on the Calais camp.

The exhibition features compelling works by established and emerging artists, refugees, camp residents and volunteers. These include a powerful new installation by award-winning artist Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen, art made in the camp by ALPHA, drawings of Calais by illustrator Nick Ellwood, and an installation of lifejackets embedded with the stories of their wearers. It will serve as a forum for a range of discussions, film screenings and performances, including a poetry evening hosted by Michael Rosen. There will also be an opportunity for visitors to leave their responses, which will become part of an art piece by artist-in-residence, Cedoux Kadima.

“Visitors will journey physically and emotionally through the space, seeing refugees and migrants emerging from a nameless bunch to named individuals, neither victims nor angels but each with their own story to tell,” says curator Sue McAlpine.

“We hope that visitors will come away with a heightened sense of empathy for the individuals behind the headlines, an enhanced understanding of the history and evolution of the Calais camp and broader migration developments, and questioning their response and responsibilities towards current refugee and migration developments.”

Call me by my name is the latest exhibition by the Migration Museum Project, which is working to establish a permanent, dedicated migration museum for Britain, examining the role of migration to and from Britain throughout its history.

“With the Calais camp right on our doorstep and migration issues currently front-page news, we feel that it’s vital for us to examine contemporary developments as part of the long, important story of migration to and from Britain,” says Sophie Henderson, director of the Migration Museum Project.

“We are a museum, not a campaigning political organisation, so the aim of this exhibition is to encourage reflection and debate, not to tell people what the response to such a complex set of circumstances should be. Our events and exhibitions across the UK over the past three years have shown us that people tend to think differently about one another once they know each other’s stories, and think differently about current circumstances when they are placed in historical context.”

There will be a press view on June 2, 4pm–8pm. To attend, for more information or high-res images, please contact: Matthew Plowright (E: matthew@migrationmuseum.org T: 07585 117 924).

Notes to editors:

Exhibition details

Dates and times: **Thursday June 2–Wednesday June 22, 12pm–8pm**

Location: **Londonewcastle Project Space, 28 Redchurch Street, London E2 7DP**

More info: migrationmuseum.org/exhibition/calaisstories/

About the Migration Museum Project

The Migration Museum Project is creating Britain's first permanent, dedicated migration museum, examining the important role that migration to and from the UK has played in our national story. It stages an adventurous set of exhibitions, events and education programmes. For more information, visit migrationmuseum.org or follow @MigrationUK on Twitter.

About Londonewcastle Project Space

Londonewcastle Project Space is a white-wall gallery and exhibition space in the heart of Shoreditch. Londonewcastle welcomes proposals for the use of the space from all corners of the creative community in London and beyond.

Acknowledgments

The Migration Museum Project would like to thank the following donors and organisations for their fantastic support, without which we would not have been able to stage this exhibition: Londonewcastle, Arts Council England, the Economic and Social Research Council, The University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), Citizenship and Government Research at The Open University, the International Organization for Migration, actREAL and all of the generous contributors to our crowdfunding campaign. We would also like to thank Counterpoints Arts for their advice and support during the planning of this exhibition.

Press images are available. See next page for thumbnails. For more information or high-res images, please contact: Matthew Plowright (E: matthew@migrationmuseum.org T: 07585 117 924).

Press images

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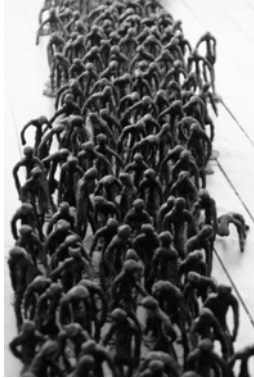


Image 1
Wanderers
© Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen



Image 2
Majeed
© Nick Ellwood



Image 3
Husham's Tent
© Mary Turner



Image 4
The Red Carpet
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Image 5
Jungle Books
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Image 6
Portrait of Ahmad
© Hannah Thomas

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