

Press Release: *About Brick Lane*, an exhibition at Espacio Gallery

Eleven contemporary artists are showing their latest works in a vibrant exhibition at Espacio Gallery, 159 Bethnal Green Road, London, E2 7DG. Curated by Liz Whiteman Smith *About Brick Lane* runs from 18th-30th September 2014. A Private View will be held on Thursday 18th September from 6–9 pm and you are warmly invited to attend.

Making and viewing art is very much an interpretive activity, much like a conversation with layers of meaning. Personal opinions and experiences influence how artists portray their subjects. Each exhibit has nuances of meaning, and the pieces of art work both individually and together to tell the story of the Brick Lane area giving a complex and unique perspective.

About Brick Lane reveals the artists distinctive interpretations of this fascinating region of London. From tiny elements often overlooked in modern life to recognisable landmarks, each artist brings you their own unique insight into the world: Julie Eccles poignant photographs expose the heart and soul of this long established area while Ruth Jones draws parallels between biological cultures and the process of gentrification that is impacting on Brick Lane.

The colourful history of the area has been a muse to several artists. Nick Hazzard explores the memories of the communities that have settled in Brick Lane. Mark Bell's steel and aluminium images reflect his response to the long distant past of Brick Lane while Ralph Overill's screen-prints and engravings are a reaction to the settlers and events that give this area such wonderful richness. The artists' reactions to the exhibition's theme have resulted in a unique, thoughtful and challenging body of work.

About Brick Lane reveals a wealth of complementary artwork. Here you can see Graham Asker's video footage of the district along with Ahmed Farooqui's monument to the migrations that have shaped the culture and the development of this inspirational neighbourhood. Esperanza Gómez-Carrera's visual explorations of the texts and writings that reflect the cultural richness of the area sit alongside Sara Wickenden's mixed media, collaged wax paintings based on the old maps of Brick

Lane. Subjects and styles are wonderfully diverse, from contemplative paintings inspired by architecture and patterns by Julie Caves to Liz Whiteman Smith's exquisitely detailed prints of individual buildings

These artists open up a dynamic and intimate dialogue with you, the viewer. Art is a conversation and we would love you to join in by visiting this remarkable exhibition. As with other Espacio exhibitions, the artists are actively involved with the gallery and you can expect to find several present at *About Brick Lane* each day should you wish to find out more about the artwork.

About Brick Lane

An exhibition held at Espacio Gallery, 159 Bethnal Green Road, London, E2 7DG. Entry-free.

Participating artists: Graham Asker, Mark Bell, Julie Caves, Julie Eccles, Ahmed Farooqui, Esperanza Gómez-Carrera, Nick Hazzard, Ruth Jones, Ralph Overill, Liz Whiteman Smith, Sara Wickenden

Curated by Liz Whiteman Smith.

Open from 18th – 30th September , 1–7pm daily (1–5pm Tuesday 30th September).

Private View on 18th September , 6–9pm.

Directions: Close to Shoreditch High Street Station, Liverpool Street Station, Buses 8, 388

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=E2+7DG&hl=en&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=53.300127,114.169922&hnear=London+E2+7DG,+United+Kingdom&t=m&z=16>

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