

Notes for Teachers: Spring 2020

Exhibitions:

Shezad Dawood: *Encroachments*

18 January – 15 March 2020



In this new exhibition *Encroachments*, Shezad Dawood explores the relations between Pakistan and the US since partition in 1947 through a Virtual Reality (VR) environment, contained within an installation of neon, wallpaper, sculpture and print.

The narrative behind *Encroachments* is a meditation on ideas of sovereignty, private property and the politics of space in the two largest cities in Pakistan: Lahore & Karachi. The term 'encroachment' is used to designate the backlash in Pakistani politics and the media against so-called illegal structures built onto the fabric of existing private and state infrastructure. These ad-hoc encampments become social and commercial apparatuses for the lower classes, and reflect a grass-roots entrepreneurialism, and reclamation of space.

The central element of the VR is the proposed US embassy in Karachi designed by Austrian-American Modernist architect Richard Neutra. Its construction began in 1959, but by the time it

was completed, the capital was moved to the new city of Islamabad and Neutra's building was downgraded to the status of a consulate. On the journey to the Neutra building and onwards, the VR user moves through various parallel environments, including renowned colonial-era bookshop Ferozsons in Lahore, established in 1894. The maze-like corridors give way to a secret passage into the Reagan years and a video game arcade referencing anti-Soviet propaganda, which fuelled a large amount of early game design evolving against the backdrop of the Soviet-Afghan war. The final sequence leads you into a contemporary Encroachment on the outskirts of Karachi, which is used as a tea shop and meeting space.

Dawinder Bansal: Jambo Cinema

18 January – 15 March 2020



Dawinder Bansal expresses a nostalgia for her Wolverhampton childhood in this installation entitled *Jambo Cinema*. School students will be able to experience the family shop **Bansal Electrical**, which also functioned as a VHS rental shop for the local population. The artist remembers enjoying communal Bollywood film screenings, and now as an adult explores the social history of South Asian and diaspora home entertainment in 1980s Britain.

Jambo Cinema at NAE is the first chance to visit Bansal Electrical since it closed in 1989. Visitors will be able to relax in the Bansal family's Kenyan-Asian living room and view a screening of the artist's 15 minute film.

Warm hearted and evocative, *Jambo Cinema* is a welcoming space for people from all backgrounds. The exhibition will inspire audiences to imagine what it means to be a second-generation child growing up in a first-generation South Asian home in Britain. It reminds us all

how popular culture can help bring people together in societies where some individuals are experiencing isolation and segregation.

Connections with the National Curriculum:

History:

KS2-3 In *Jambo Cinema* students will learn how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. In *Encroachments* students will gain historical perspective on Pakistan by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

KS3-5 Students will gain understanding of terms such as 'partition' as they see colonies move towards independence in the twentieth century and 'migration' in the context of British history.

Geography:

KS 2 In *Encroachments*, students will develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

KS3-5 These exhibitions can help improve students' understanding of the ways in which values, attitudes and circumstances have an impact on the relationships between people, place and environment, and develop the knowledge and ability to engage, as citizens, with the questions and issues arising. It will also be possible for students to investigate the importance of the meanings and representations attached to places by people through cultural and artistic approaches to representing place.

Both exhibitions will contribute to an understanding of human geography relating to: population and urbanisation; international development; and economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors.

Art and Design:

KS2 This is a chance to learn about the work of two artists, where students can describe the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, making connections with their own work.

KS3-5 Students will learn about a significant contemporary art form: multi-media art. The term describes artwork made from a range of materials and including an electronic element such as audio, video or virtual reality, as can be seen in the work of contemporary artists such as Steve McQueen, Bill Viola and Susan Hillier, as well as NAE artists Dawinder Bansal and Shezad Dawood.

GCSE: These exhibitions will help students to know and understand how sources inspire the development of ideas, especially by drawing on the work and approaches of artists, craftspeople or designers from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures. Students will also use visual language critically in the galleries.

Citizenship:

KS3-4 These exhibitions are a stimulating context in which to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments.

PSHE:

KS2-4 In a gallery visit the following will be covered: learning about other people's feelings and becoming aware of the views, needs and rights of other people.

N.B. Exhibition notes for teachers are going through a process of development. Please send your feedback and suggestions to ruth@nae.org.uk