

Artists and public respond to Peckham's negative media portrayal

Peckham TV

Public event: 'Peckham TV', Saturday 21st June, 4-8pm

An innovative art project designed to create a new identity for one of London's most misunderstood areas launches on Peckham Square. Called 'Peckham TV', the collaboration by artist Harold Offeh and collective The People Speak marks the launch of Peckham Space that will commission participatory artwork made in response to the locale of Peckham.

Public talk: 'Social Change/ Contemporary Art?' Thursday 19th June, 7:15pm

Peckham TV artists will be in conversation with the think tank Demos to discuss the role of cultural production in everyday democracy at public talk 'Social Change/ Contemporary Art?'

Peckham Space is a partnership between Camberwell College of Arts University of the Arts London and Southwark Council. It will present a new programme of socially engaged art that promotes participatory practice and supports collaboration between artists and audiences.

Peckham TV, the inaugural commission of Peckham Space, will involve artists and audiences in the development of a positive 'advert' for Peckham. At the public event, participants will be able to voice their visions of Peckham in an open mic session and see their ideas creatively interpreted and brought instantly to life through 3D visualisations. The event will broadcast a live mix of public opinion in a unique game show format, climaxing in a vote to decide on the final collective vision that will represent future Peckham.

The People Speak are an art collective who primarily take their practice into the public domain utilising familiar media formats. TV game shows, discussion programmes and radio shows are reconfigured to put the editorial decisions and the agenda into the hands of the participants. They have toured internationally as part of ISEA, EAST, Tate Modern as well as the Prague Biennale. Recently their project *Who Wants to Be*, 'a direct democracy game show' was awarded a major commission from Contemporary Art Norwich. *The People Speak* will be utilising their unique democratic voting and visualisation technologies at the Peckham TV event.

Harold Offeh has exhibited widely internationally, including residencies and projects with Tate Modern, Gasworks and the ICA. His work addresses issues of co-operation, communication and participation through a range of strategies including found footage, interactive media, site specific performance and video. His recent curatorial project, *The Mothership Collective*, explored the theme of Afro-futurism through collective engagement with other artists. Emily Druiff, Director of Peckham Space, says: "Participation in contemporary art is a topic that, over the last fifty years, has sparked hot debate. Issues such as 'the role of the audience', 'collaborative authorship' and the 'openness of an artwork' are but a few. An umbrella for these issues can often be traced back to an intention from the artist: 'the democratisation of cultural production'.

“Peckham Space’s artistic programme will contribute to this debate by working closely with artists whose practice share similar intentions exploring strategies for participation, uses of public space and new media.”

All Peckham Space events are free and no booking is required.

Event details/ Listings:

Peckham TV Public Event: Peckham TV

Saturday 21st June 2008, 16:00-20:00

Peckham Square,

Peckham Road

London SE15 8RS

Peckham TV Public Talk: ‘Social Change / Contemporary Art?’

Thursday 19th June, 19:15

Wilson Road Lecture Hall,

Camberwell College of Arts,

Wilson Road SE5 8LU

Travel:

Buses: 343 from London Bridge

78 from Liverpool Street/ Aldgate

171/12 from Elephant & Castle

36/ 436 from Victoria/ Oval

Rail: Peckham Rye direct London Bridge

Contact: Emily Druiff, Director of Peckham Space

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Notes to editors:

1) For further images, logos, interviews or information please contact:

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2) Emily Druiff is Director of Peckham Space, Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London. She has an MA in Curating from Goldsmiths University. She has specialised in curating participatory practices and new media in the public realm and has worked at the Prague Biennale, EAST, NODE.London and ARS Electronica.