

Lucy + Jorge Orta

8 July to 22 October 2023

The visual artists Lucy + Jorge Orta began exhibiting internationally in the early 1990s, creating a diverse body of work across a range of disciplines including sculpture and public art. Their work explores ecological, environmental and social themes, and is often co-created through community engagement.

The exhibition at Harewood was developed over many months by engaging communities across Leeds in conversations around food, heritage and culture. How we cultivate, produce and distribute food are entwined with issues of community and environmental responsibility, with implications at a local and global level.

Presented within the Old Kitchen and Pastry Room, the exhibition references their historic function as spaces of food related activity. It includes an installation entitled *Seeds* (2016), a series of unique hand-blown Murano glass seed sculptures. These larger-than-life specimens represent varieties of seeds and pollen, referencing the natural landscapes and gardens beyond the walls of Harewood. By magnifying and illuminating the beauty of seeds and the natural world, they also provide a metaphor for community regeneration, growth and resilience.

From 15 July, we will present '70 x 7: The Meal, Act XLV', an installation documenting a Lucy + Jorge's Orta large-scale participative artwork staged on the Terrace of Harewood as part of the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture.

Supported by Leeds 2023, through the National Heritage Lottery Fund.



How can you help?

Harewood House Trust is an educational charity committed to promoting social justice. Our friends at **Rainbow Junktion**, who have contributed to this project, are on a mission to fight food poverty and build community. They are open as a Community Café and Foodshare, with around 500 people per week using their services.

Rainbow Junktion works with around 75 regular volunteers who make their service possible, but with increasing pressures from the cost of living crisis, additional support will always be welcome.

If you would like to play your part in helping to tackle food poverty in Leeds, here's how you can help...

- + Give a one-off donation, or become a Friend of Rainbow Junktion, as a regular financial supporter.
- + Donate food and other supplies to All Hallows' Church, 24 Regent Terrace, LS6 1NP, between 10am-4pm on Mondays, Thursdays + Fridays.

For a full list of what you can donate, please scan the QR code below.

Rainbow Junktion's services are always non-referral, non-judgemental and open to absolutely everyone. Any help or support will be very gratefully received, thank you.

Rainbow Junktion is based at All Hallows Church, 24 Regent Terrace, Leeds, LS6 1NP. Registered charity 1184558 @rainbowjunktion



Lucy + Jorge Orta

'70 x 7: The Meal, Act XLV'

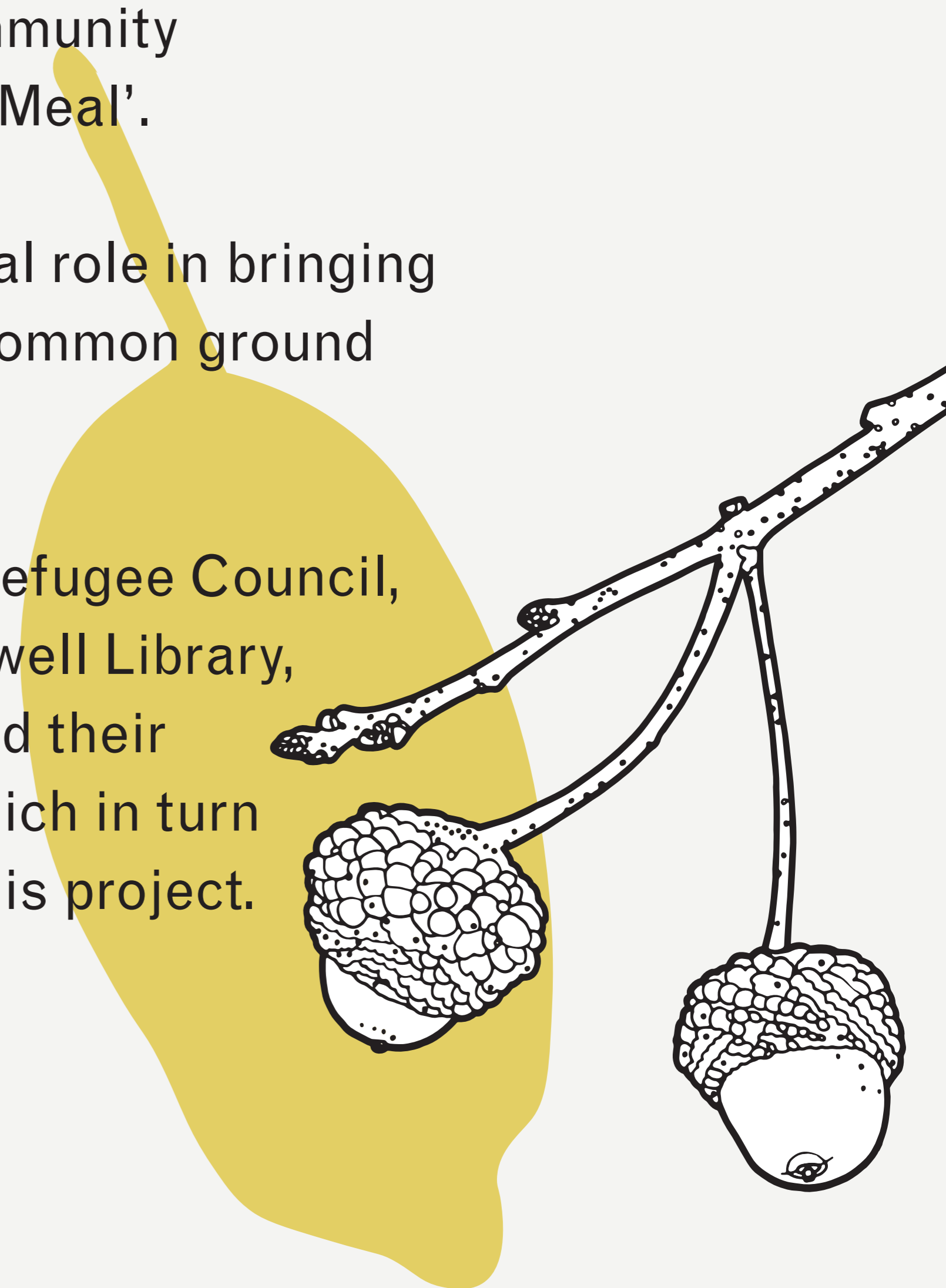
This installation documents Lucy + Jorge Orta's '70 x 7: The Meal, Act XLV'. Presented on the Terrace at Harewood House on 8 July, this large-scale public artwork convened people from communities across Leeds for a shared meal prepared by catering students from Leeds City College.

The installation included artist-designed Royal Limoges plates and table runners featuring text provocations written by people engaged in the co-creation of the work. The napkins are co-designed by art students from the University of Leeds.

Harewood's event was the 45th staging of the work which has taken place across many cities across the world. It belongs to a series of works conceived as an space of sharing, conversation and celebration. The meal at Harewood included growers, urban farms, environmentalists, nutritionists, and social justice campaigners and many more. From the cultural significance of food, to issues of biodiversity and the security of food supply chains, 'The Meal' brought people together to discuss and enact positive change. The display is accompanied by material reflecting Harewood's community engagement as part of the co-creation of '70 x 7: The Meal'.

The project shows how art and food can play a central role in bringing diverse communities from all ages together to find common ground and healthy solutions for Leeds and for the planet.

With a special thanks to the communities from the Refugee Council, Rainbow Junction, Aberford Community Café, Shadwell Library, Zest and Tea + Tolerance who have so willingly shared their time and stories around food, seeds and growing, which in turn have contributed so significantly to the shaping of this project.



Lucy + Jorge Orta

Seeds

2016

Twenty-three unique hand-blown Murano glass objects that represent varieties of seeds and pollen.

Courtesy Lucy + Jorge Orta

Lucy + Jorge Orta

Seedbank

2014

Pencil, pigment ink, watercolour
on Fabriano paper.

Courtesy Lucy + Jorge Orta