

18 September – 22 November 2015

In memory of Nigerian writer
and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa

#IAccuse

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ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

2015 marks twenty years since Nigerian writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed, alongside eight colleagues, for crimes he did not commit. They were campaigning against Shell's exploitation and environmental destruction of the Ogoni land which twenty years on, remains unchecked. Peckham is at the heart of London's Nigerian and Ogoni diaspora so to coincide with this important anniversary, Peckham Platform has commissioned artist and writer Michael McMillan for a commemorative exhibition that will take place at the gallery.

In June, the global *Action Saro-Wiwa* tour (organised by Platform London) brought Sokari Douglas Camp's *The Battle Bus* to Peckham Square – the living memorial created by the Nigerian artist in 2005. *The Battle Bus* is a large-scale mobile interactive steel sculpture topped by oil drums and etched with the words of one of Saro-Wiwa's final speeches. Working with Theatre Peckham, McMillan created a performance piece that used *The Battle Bus* as a site and took place on the square on Saturday 27th June. It triggered memories for Nigerians and local people in Peckham of Ken Saro-Wiwa as a symbol for ordinary people resisting oppression and fighting for freedom across Africa and the world.

For the exhibition, wallpaper made from large-scale photographs taken inside and outside *The Battle Bus* lines the gallery evoking a sense in visitors of being present in the sculpture. Kiosks display materials from Nigerian shops and communities in Peckham including food and 'Nollywood' videos such as 70s sitcom 'Basi & Co' which was written by Ken Saro-Wiwa. Film of the performance of McMillan's work on Peckham Square and a montage of passers-by reading passages from Saro-Wiwa's final speech 'I Accuse' inside *The Battle Bus* will be projected into the gallery, creating multiple layers that reflect the impact of *The Battle Bus*' presence now it has departed on its journey to its permanent home in the Niger Delta.

WHAT'S ON

Public Opening

17 September 6 – 9pm

We warmly welcome you to the public launch of *Doing Nothing is Not an Option*, a project by Michael McMillan in collaboration with Theatre Peckham and Platform London commissioned by Peckham Platform. This mixed media installation offers viewers the opportunity to engage with the memory of Ken Saro-Wiwa and how his legacy impacts on our lives today through a series of creative interventions. Be amongst the first to engage with this dynamic installation located in Peckham Platform.

Last Friday Writers' Salon

25 September 6 – 8.30pm

Join us for a creative writing workshop responding to people's experiences in Peckham and how they connect to the issues explored in the exhibition. From this workshop there will be opportunities to perform alongside experienced spoken word artists at our Friday Night Performance Salon on 30 October as part of Black History Month.

Artist Talk 'You Can't Kill an Idea ...'

15 October 6.30 – 8pm

Don't miss hearing Michael McMillan in conversation with David A Bailey, curator and chair of Platform London, about the creative collaborative process of developing *Doing Nothing is Not an Option*. This event will explore how the interdisciplinary nature of McMillan's practice has emerged and developed and investigate the influence of other practitioners and the questions his work raises about diasporic migration, identity, ethics and aesthetics, as well as the commissioning process behind this project. This event will be part of Black History Month and is free but you will need to book via www.peckhamplatform.com

Last Friday Performance Salon

30 October 6 – 8.30pm

Join us for an evening performance salon with writers, spoken-word poets and artists, including local contributors from our Writers' Salon alongside Shake! (Sai Murray and Zena Edwards) and Caleb Femi. This will be an opportunity for contributors to share work that builds on the themes, issues and questions raised in this exhibition. This event will be part of Black History Month and is free but you will need to book via www.peckhamplatform.com

Learning Programme

Charge up your phone, switch it on and send a message. Think that sounds easy? Not if you have to generate the electricity first!

Join us for free drop-in learning activities throughout the exhibition based around the ethics of energy generation and mobile phone use in places where unreliable supply can be used as a tool of oppression and exploitation. You will find out how to generate your own energy by creating circuits powered by solar panels and dynamos; can you generate enough to charge up a mobile phone?

These free activities are designed for all ages and abilities and no booking is required. For more information or to arrange a group or school visit please contact our Learning Officer, peter@peckhamplatform.com

SUPPORT PECKHAM PLATFORM!

Peckham Platform is a UK charity that believes that there can be no art without people. Just as we need our community partners to produce our artistic programme we need your generous support to help us to reach our goals for 2016. Text PECK001 to 70970 to give £5 now or visit www.peckhamplatform.com/support-us to make a contribution of any size. Thank you, we can't do it without you!

Opening Times

Public Launch

17 September 2015, 6pm – 9pm

18 September – 22 November 2015

Wednesday – Friday, 11am – 6pm

Saturday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm

Venue

Peckham Platform
89 Peckham High Street
London SE15 5RS

Contact

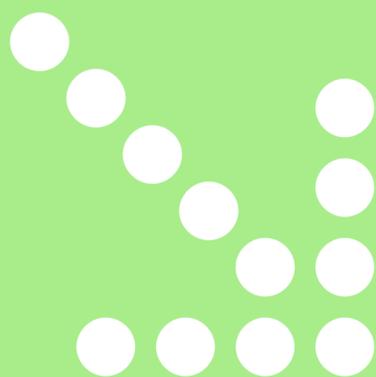
info@peckhamplatform.com

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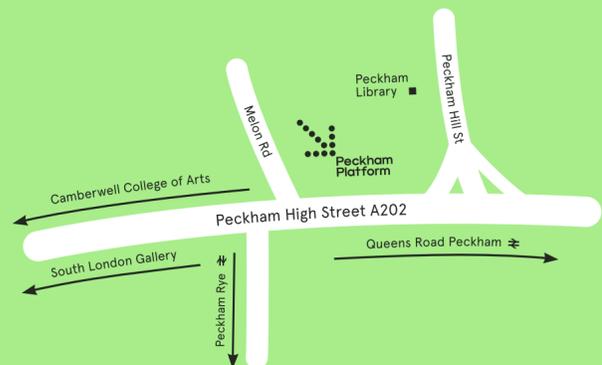
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