



Julie Myers: Song Vessels

29 November 2013 - 3 January 2014



The Gallery @ Idea Store Whitechapel presents 'Song Vessels', a sound art project by Julie Myers. The project highlights the significance of song in children's early years, within an overarching theme of shared memory. We all have photographs of parents and grandparents and 'Song Vessels' provides family members with a similarly evocative mnemonic through these recorded voices in song. The process involves making audio recordings of parents' and grandparents' voices and saving them for children to listen to in the future.

The project was developed through a series of workshops and singing events at different East London locations. The songs become a contemporary celebration of cultural identity denoting the diverse heritage within the area.

At Idea Store Whitechapel Myers joined the Story Time team in the children's library to offer parents a chance to record a song for their child. At Jagonari Women's Centre, also in Whitechapel, Myers hosted a series of workshops in which participants were encouraged to share songs, photographs and objects reflecting parenting and childhood experiences. Working with musician Roshi Nasehi, the group exchanged these songs and poems in English and Bengali, and made audio recordings of individual and group singing sessions. At Howards Road Community Centre in Stoke Newington, Myers and musician Maya Waldman worked with mothers and baby groups to record some of the songs they regularly sing to their children.

The project is funded by Insight Investment and commissioned by HS Projects. Workshops were supported by Domenica Pecoraro, Senior Project Officer and Fateha Khanam, ESOL Teacher/ Reading Facilitator at Jagonari Women's Centre; and Faduma Karshe, Coordinator at Idea Store.

Julie Myers' practice is informed by a response to people and place, and combines traditional techniques such as photography, filmmaking and drawing, together with mobile, web and emergent technologies. The ways people make sense of their environment through memory, personal experience and story-telling is thematically central within Myers' dispersive practice.

Myers is an artist and university lecturer based in London and her work has been exhibited extensively in USA, Canada, Europe and the UK. Past commissions include: Arts Council England (2006, 2009, 2010); The British Council (2008); The British Film Institute (2000). Industrial collaborators have included: Adobe Systems, USA; (2009) British Telecom (2007); and Philips Multimedia, FR (2000).