INTRODUCTION

This exhibition explores how family histories reverberate through the generations. It also engages with themes of subculture, spirituality and Britishness. The map that runs through this film is the search for meaning, redemption or otherwise. The photographs on show are a portrait of south London and the artist is based. They are also a collection of flags in celebration of the Queen’s 60th and 25th birthdays, alive and otherwise.

The particular shade of beige – which is titled Muddy Puddle – brings a sense of warmth and familiarity. They equally function to situate the sculptures in between the sites of worship. The bronze figure is modelled on Matić’s father, Paul. Paul’s story incorporates sculpture, collage, multimedia practice which has a particular relevance for Matić’s community and family. They feature the artist’s mother Ali, c.1990, and Zac on holiday c.2000’s with a photograph of Paul and Zac, 2016. Rene Matić and Emma Dabiri in conversation will be in conversation with artist Rene Matić. Dabiri’s work focuses on race as seen through the prism of class, capitalism and colonialism.

Visit the SLG website to book your ticket: www.southlondongallery.org/events/renematetic-and-emmadabiri-in-conversation/

SLG
South London Gallery
Main Building: 65–67 Peckham Road, London SE1 5SU
Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London SE15 5AB
Daily Express, 9th September 2022.

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

1. The Peterborough Effect, published by Peterborough Development Corporation, 1988
2. A copy of a lost passport photograph of Paul, 1960
3. A framed passport photograph of the artist’s mother Ali, c.1980s
5. A framed photograph of Paul with the artist and their brothers Louis and Zac on holiday c.2000 using a framed white feather
6. A framed school photograph of Paul and Rene, 2000’s
7. Greater Peterborough City Centre Plan, Peterborough Development Corporation, 1971
8. A vinyl copy of Soul Brothers Six, ‘Thank You Baby For Loving Me’, 1969, given to the artist by their father
9. A selection of family photographs including a photograph of a man with a dog, 1950
10. A flag of Saint Lucia as well as a photograph of a man and his rivals who met to observe their wedding day, 1991
11. A photo of Paul Skawierski beach, 1979
13. A Peterborough United football scarf
14. A framed Rinkenbergh sculpture, 1971
15. A photo of a Peterborough resident with a dog, 1971

The words on display can be photographed. Share your pictures with us on social media.

Rene Matić, VE Day, Skegness, III, 2020

The crucifixion story, and the thread that runs through this film is the search for something greater. When affixed to the cross body and what it has been through.

The photograph within this room functions as a caption to the material in the vitrine. It references displacement and departure, birth and death, while the ultimate material looks to the life that happens between and ultimately, as Matić notes: “we are all born, and we die. A thousand times in one lifetime.”

The framed photograph within the room shows the artist’s tattoo box. It was taken by British photographer Derek Rogers who documented subcultural movements including skinheads throughout the 1970s and 1980s. The tattoo itself was carried out by Lal Hardy, who tattooed many punks and Skinheads in England in the same era.

By inscribing the far-right slogan ‘Born British, Die British on the mixed race, queer body Matić inverts desire and problematic race of a pure undifferentiated Britness, while simultaneously claiming the phrase as their own. The act also collides violence enacted on Black and Brown bodies throughout British history and into the present day. By commissioning Rogers to take the photograph, Matić embeds himself into a specific visual history of Skinhead subculture.

The words on this flag are also included on the coat of arms of the church and finding the pub. Or finding God and finding subculture. And in the end, I understand it as the search for something greater. When you fail you when you are being failed.”

It is registered as company no.04720002 (SLG Trustee Ltd) and it is registered as a registered charity no.312160.

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Matić’s community and family. They feature the artist’s mother Ali, c.1990, and Zac on holiday c.2000’s with a photograph of Paul and Zac, 2016.

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Also on at the SLG: Simon Barclay in the Name of the Father
Main Gallery, 23–27 Nov 2022, Free
Major solo exhibition by Simon Barclay (b. 1975) features an installation of new works in the Main Gallery. Known for his multimedia practice which incorporates sculpture, collage, neon, and moving images, Simon Barclay explores the ways we navigate and perform identity based on cultural memory.

The works on display can be photographed. Share your pictures with us on social media.