

The Ethics of Migratory Practice

questions and observations

*Migration is the oldest action against poverty*¹

Our starting point, from where we choose to start:

HAT: Here and There seeks to inspire and challenge contemporary craft practice by facilitating opportunities for research through international exchange.

challenge the narrow, culturally exclusive version of the national story

operating from a privileged position of choice:

*a choice about the kind of society we want to live in
- open to the dynamic forces of the world at large, open
to integration with the world, and embracing a
universal rather than a national morality*²

Short-term, reciprocal migration: is it good or bad?

taking oneself 'out' of oneself

putting oneself 'out':

out of the familiar

out of safety

out there, not back here

How do we document the impact, the residue, and how do we then sustain and develop that legacy?

re-presenting the extra-ordinary

What is the role and responsibility of artists, stepping into migratory practice?

How is their own practice affected?

Where and how is the response to be located, and on whose terms?

Preparation, both as a practitioner and as a person:

learning the history, re-treading old routes

The baggage of history: perceptions of older clothes that only become visible in direct sunlight

¹ GK Galbraith 1979

² Migration: A Welcome Opportunity

A new way forward by the RSA Migration Commission

What about the long-term migrant and the descendants of migrants whose presence continues to be a reminder of past and uncomfortable histories?

*Migration is (the) joker in the globalisation pack..... It is the un-museum story, which keeps getting spoken in cultural production.*³

The cultural imprint: pressing one form into/onto another's
The culture clash of financial year with the priority of
process: the process rather than the object

Some sense of a stage, an area where exchange and
transaction is encouraged and effected, but whose edges?
And there's a script, but whose language?

Listening back: attentiveness, openness
Finding some/one of many truths in another's culture

Time as an underlying element of the migratory process:
the time we 'make'
the time we 'have' to share
the time we 'give'
and also the time we 'take out' to make the journey

Jeremy Theophilus

³ Stuart Hall, Changing States, INIVA