Kulsuma Monica Khatoon
Oxford Brookes University
Can You Say That Again?
3–13 October 2019

Artist Statement
I am a profoundly deaf Muslim artist. I wear two cochlear implants that give me access to sounds which I could not otherwise ‘naturally’ hear. Due to the limitations of this sonic range, my comprehension of the English language can appear delayed and my speech can often be unclear for others to understand. Therefore, to communicate, I lip-read and use a fingerspell sign language alphabet to both ‘understand’ what is said and to be ‘understood’ by others. Can You Say That Again? looks at the relationship between sound and sight, between speech and text, between hearing and reading. The work foregrounds my disability and my daily struggle to be understood.

Website: https://www.kulsumakhatoon.com / Instagram: @monny96_art

Event: Kulsuma Monica Khatoon In Conversation with Aaron Williamson
Saturday 12 October, 2-3.30pm, Creative Space
Join Kulsuma Monica Khatoon and Aaron Williamson to discuss Monica’s Platform work Can You Say That Again? and to discuss social models of disability, the relationship between sight and sound, the power of communication and how the concept “deaf gain” applies to the creation of art work.

Aaron Williamson has been a practicing artist and activist for 25 years, creating performances across the globe addressing ideas around the politics of disability, identity, isolation and access. His work stands out as being both political and humorous, focusing on his experiences since gaining deafness.

Reading list and authors who inspire:
Dorothea Dot Miles – Poet and deaf artist

Viewing list:
Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Black (2005)
Artist Statement
Rooted in exploring the dynamics of drawing, I work to navigate the boundaries of subjective perception in relation to scale, mapping, composition and translation.

Drawing, writing, sound and found materials underpin these investigations into site-specific locations. Collected information is then organised and re-articulated through a system of interactive fragments that self-generates the conditions of its own composition. Here, objects come in and out of view through a shifting relationship with the body and its parameters. This process continually de-composes and re-composes sites of material and immaterial interaction, calling into question the frameworks of art production and viewing, material agency and ecological thought.

Like a blank page of paper, the space becomes a site of transformation.

Event: Artist Talk
Sunday 8, Wednesday 11 and Saturday 14 September, 3pm, Creative Space
Join Grace Robertson for an informal drop-in conversation at the gallery where she will ‘activate’ her work.

Reading List

Viewing List
*Llanberis Slate Mine*, Wales

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Amy Richardson
University of Reading
*There’s nothin’ soft about hard times*
19–29 September 2019

Artist Statement
My practice capitalises on the intricacy and dedicated labour associated with textile embroidery in order to emphasise the value of marginalised individuals within society and the socio-political issues they are effected by.

*There’s nothin’ soft about hard times* centres around a series of nine free-embroidered cushions which retell my uncle’s story of homelessness. They reflect upon the effects of a harmful childhood, struggles with learning difficulties, mental health and addiction as well as the negative societal and governmental attitudes which contributed to the times. The display of soft domestic items, floral printed cardboard tiles and a political banner produces conflicting feelings of comfort and discomfort and creates an appropriately confusing space indicative of the statelessness felt by people who are homeless. My work encourages the audience to move beyond the immediate prettiness that may be most alluring and instead be witness to the veracity of the messages contained within the work that makes a personal plea for change.

https://amyeliseart8.wordpress.com

Event: Artist Talk
Saturday 28 September, 12noon - 3pm, Creative Space
Join Amy Richardson for an informal drop-in conversation about the exhibition and her artistic practice.

Reading list

Viewing List
The People’s History Museum, Manchester, *Protest Banner Exhibition* (January - December 2019)
Richard Bell, *My Art is an Act of Protest*, Tate, Artist Interview (2019), Accessed 30 July 2019
Hannah Hill x Kate Rolison on Embroidery and Mental Health, Tate collective, Artist Meets (2018), Accessed 25 July 2019