

## PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 7 January 2010  
For immediate release



new art exchange

# [re]locate

by Tahera Aziz

**Dates:** Saturday 16 January - Saturday 10 April 2010

**Preview:** Friday 15 January, 6pm - 9pm

**Opening Times:** Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm

**Admission:** Free

**New Art Exchange is proud to present this ground-breaking sound installation by Tahera Aziz, which revisits the place where Stephen Lawrence was tragically murdered. This 'experience' is an attempt to preserve the memory of, and bring some understanding to the tragic events surrounding his death...**

[re]locate revisits an ordinarily public 'place' that retains the traces of a deeply significant event; it is concerned with the processes involved in struggling to preserve the memory of that event whilst offering new insights. The impetus for the work flows from the tragic events surrounding the racially motivated murder of 18-year-old Stephen Lawrence near a bus stop in South London in 1993, and the deep impact this has had publicly particularly following the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry into the police handling of the murder investigation, and its subsequent lack of resolution.

Taking the notion of the daily routine of waiting at the bus stop as its starting point, [re]locate explores the disruption of the everyday, to foreground the event once again, highlighting detailed elements that have particular resonance.

*'...never take the tedious task of waiting for a bus for granted...'*

What Stephen Lawrence Has Taught Us by Benjamin Zephaniah

Tahera Aziz has had a longstanding creative and political interest in identity, migration and racism. She has produced photo-based and installation work that explores how wider socio-political issues or events can impact on the individual to shape their experiences, and their sense of self and belonging. Motivated by a desire to explore the potential of sound to re-examine events associated with the Stephen Lawrence case, Aziz has developed [re]locate with funding from the Arts Council of England and the Arts and

# PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 7 January 2010  
For immediate release

Humanities Research Council, in partnership with London South Bank University, PVA MediaLab and New Art Exchange.

During the exhibition, the artist will be requesting visitors to give some feedback on their experience of the sonic installation. In keeping with the research process, these responses will be integral to the evolution of the artwork as it moves to new locations and spaces.

[re]locate is exhibiting at New Art Exchange alongside The Meaning of Style, and will be on show until Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

- Ends -

**For further information please contact: Raam Tarat, *Marketing and Communications Manager* on  
T: 0115 924 8630, M: 077910 45090, E: [raam@nae.org.uk](mailto:raam@nae.org.uk)**

## Notes to Editors:

### [re]locate

- **Tahera Aziz** is an artist and educator based in London with a longstanding creative and political interest in identity, migration and racism. Her works explore how wider socio-political issues or events can impact on the individual to shape their experiences, and their sense of self and belonging.
- The exhibition will be running from Saturday 16 January - Saturday 10 April 2010
- New Art Exchange, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
- Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm
- Admission to the exhibition is FREE
- For more information visit the NAE website: [www.nae.org.uk](http://www.nae.org.uk)

# **PRESS RELEASE**

Thursday 7 January 2010  
For immediate release

**From the BBC:**

## Exhibition revisits Stephen Lawrence case

**The tragic, racist murder of black student, Stephen Lawrence in 1993 shocked the nation.**

The case is still poignantly relevant, and has become a reference point for similar cases. The subsequent public inquiry into the police handling of the case forms the nucleus of an audio-visual installation by artist, Tahera Aziz.

[re]locate revisits an ordinarily public 'place' that retains the traces of a deeply significant event; it is concerned with the processes involved in struggling to preserve the memory of that event whilst offering new insights.

[re]locate stages a sonic reconstruction focusing on the bus stop on Well Hall Road in Eltham, South London where Stephen Lawrence was fatally injured following an unprovoked racially motivated attack by a gang of white youths.

Artist Tahera Aziz uses transcripts from the inquiry report to build up a picture of what happened on that fateful night, and exploits audio storytelling to encourage the audience to generate their own mental images of the events.

Aziz challenges the audience by putting them into the position of three witnesses who were standing at the bus stop on the night of April 22 1993 and who, according to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, boarded a bus shortly after the attack. Aziz poses the question - what would the audience do if faced with the same predicament.

[re]locate has been four years in the making and is an artistic response to a horrific event and the public inquiry that followed it.

"The agonising story of Stephen Lawrence touched the lives of a generation with the inquiry marking a turning point in Britain's approach to race relations, highlighting issues relating to policing and the Black and minority ethnic communities."

"Young people may not have directly heard of Stephen Lawrence but they'll be able to make immediate connections with the issues raised by the artwork," said London-based artist Aziz.

Tahera Aziz has had a longstanding creative and political interest in identity, migration and racism. She teaches in Arts and Media at London South Bank University.

< ENDS >

# PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 7 January 2010

For immediate release

## New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins\ Brown** boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighbourhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*