

Artists in Residence: Shiraz Bayjoo

Resident at Bow Boys School, Tower Hamlets, **Shiraz Bayjoo** initiated a collaboration with students and teachers. The *Bow Boys Archive* forms part of the artist's personal exploration into collective identities and migration.

London-based artist Bayjoo's method of simplifying and reformatting images uses reclaimed furniture, multiple layers of translucent paint, photographic prints and film to create an emotionally and politically charged installation.

The visual narrative that unfolds in the installation includes portraits of the students juxtaposed with other found portraits, becoming increasingly dominated by images of protest and the fight for civil and human rights from the 1930s to the 1980s. This is emphasised through newsreel footage from the internet of immigrants arriving in the UK, marches campaigning against housing laws and protest marches by different groups.

The residency involved two different stages – participants explored connections between themselves and the immediate environment of Bow; and then sourced images from the media and world around them to reflect these connections.

The resulting *Bow Boys Archive* places the students at the centre of a dialogue about oral histories and notions of collective memory and place. Their family stories of moving to east London are set against a broader history of migration within the British Commonwealth. Identities are forged through the struggles of older generations and other communities, and defined within the physical confines of inner city London.

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For more information visit: whitechapelgallery.org/education

A publication about the Artists in Residence is available from the bookshop

