

# Heather and Ivan Morison

## Smile All the While

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Where does a story begin and end? Can a character become real? Artists **Heather and Ivan Morison** take us on a humorous exploration of how fiction and everyday life can be woven together.

*Smile All the While* uses games and improvisation to trigger unexpected and playful situations. Presented on three monitors and structured as a play in six acts, this new commission for the Whitechapel Gallery draws on the Morisons' interest in performance, storytelling, object theatre and comedy.

A man, a woman and a young girl are telling a story. They talk about love and friendship. They are playing games that involve objects, words, jokes, waiting and watching. The conversation follows certain rhythms, patterns and rules. The space turns into a set, and dialogues evolve as a kind of story-making-machine. Within the character's immersive and strange world, one becomes aware that 'each rule has a consequence'.

Heather and Ivan Morison were inspired by a year-long residency in a local school, where they explored with students ways of learning and making through play - using objects, trees, puppets, shelters and writing to test out possibilities of how to be creative within the school environment.

Known for their large scale sculptural installations, one-off happenings, a nomadic puppet theatre company and fictional writings, the Morison's challenge the boundaries of different art forms and consider how places and communities can be transformed through collective action.

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#### Find Out More:

With special thanks to Thomas Buxton Primary School (London Borough of Tower Hamlets): teachers **David Cooke**, **Olivia Greenaway**, assistant head teacher **Zinath Begum**, and all the many students of Year 4 that took part in the residency, from September 2012 to July 2013. Thanks to **Diverse Works**, Houston (Texas, US) and actors **Tek Wilson**, **Kaleb Fields** and **Kallen Haynes**.

For more information on the residency at Thomas Buxton Primary School visit [whitechapel.org/education](http://whitechapel.org/education)

A performance related to the exhibition followed by conversation with the artists takes place on the 18th of January at 2pm. Please see the season guide or website for details.

#### Supported by:

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