

Heather and Ivan Morison Smile All the While

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.

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

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.

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