

ORGANISATION FOR BLACK ARTS ADVANCEMENT & LEISURE
ACTIVITIES PRESENTS

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION (THE INSTALLATION)

An Exhibition by
OBAALA ARTS COLLECTIVE
David A Bailey Sonia Boyce
Shakka Deddi George Kelly
Kenneth McCalla Keith Piper

Looking at differences in values and lifestyles between
pioneer settlers from the Caribbean to Britain
to those of their children

23 OCT - 21 DEC' 85

The Black-Art Gallery

225 SEVEN SISTERS RD. FINSBURY PARK LONDON N4
TEL: 01-263 1918 TUBE: FINSBURY PARK

OPEN: TUES-SAT 11PM-7PM SUN: RING FOR DETAILS

ADMISSION FREE



Parminder Vir OBE BLACK & ETHNIC ARTS ARCHIVE
GLC
1981-1986
Working for London
archive.parmindervir.com

You are invited to the

REVIEW NIGHT

Thursday 5th December

7.30 - 9.30pm

1) Welcome Black Dance Circle
Jazz etc.
2) Proms & Present Black Dance
before now + end of
GLC

3) Drink Break / Drinks Also.

4) The Little Ain't FA
+ say for words,



12th July - 2nd Aug 1986

THE ATROCITY EXHIBITION

& OTHER EMPIRE STORIES

An Exhibition of Work by

DONALD G RODNEY

of The **BLK**
ART
Group



"The day of transition is a long one that is the lesson of all conscious revolutions. The revolutionary by the way, is not a man/woman with a gun aimed at a few privileged people — that is a gangster, a bandit.



A youth brandishes a petrol bomb

A revolution begins when a whole people stand behind a gun as a symbol and fact, and aim it against their suffering as a negative weapon, and towards their release as a positive machine, capable of moving mountains." Nevil Dawes



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Parminder Vir, OBE, BLACK & ETHNICITY ARCHIVE

12th July - 2nd Aug 1986

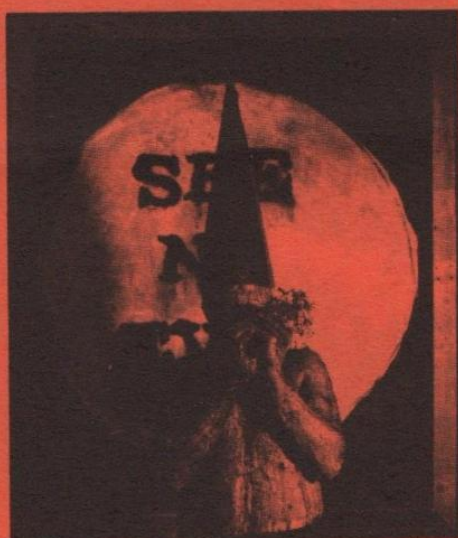
THE ATROCITY EXHIBITION

& OTHER EMPIRE STORIES

An Exhibition of Work by

DONALD G RODNEY

"The Atrocity Exhibition and other Empire Stories" will be Donald G. Rodney's first solo show. Organised by OBAALA the exhibition will be held at The Black-Art Gallery, 225 Seven Sisters Rd, Finsbury Park N4. The show is a graphic and poignant presentation of the atrocities worked on Black peoples by the forces of Empire imperialism, colonialism and capitalism. To do this, the artist takes the viewer on a voyage. "I take you through the history of those forces which shape our cultural and historical perspectives and situates us as Black people in our contemporary existence."



Donald G. Rodney is 25, and is a member of the group of politically motivated Black artists, known as the Blk Art Group. Formed in 1981, it operates as the visual response to the political realities of the Black peoples of the world. Under this banner and creative impetus, members of the Blk Art Group have shown their works in venues the length and breadth of the country. Included in the constantly fluctuating line up of the group are Claudette Johnson, Eddie Chambers, Keith Sekou Piper and Marlene Smith. Donald studied fine art at Trent Polytechnic and is currently at the Slade School of Art, London doing a post-graduate in fine art multimedia.

The Black-Art Gallery

225 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD LONDON N4 TEL: 01-263 1918
(Finsbury Park Station, Opposite Rainbow Theatre)



The Black Art Gallery is open Tues-Sats 11:00am to 7:00pm
For further details including supporting events please contact:-
JIDE or MARLENE ON 263 1918 10:00am-5.30pm Tues to Fri.
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The atrocities in this exhibition are the persistent violence/attempted violence of the state, the dehumanisation/attempted dehumanisation of African people as a tool of enslavement, capitalism's abuse of the 'colonial subject' who becomes little more than a dispensable commodity. Other stories of the empire are the slow & painful process of awakening from the 'ignorance' which is symptomatic of our position as colonised people, the slow & painful realisation that the dreams of 'Civis Britannus Sum' will not be realised part of a process of awakening to the methods used to control & contain us as colonised people. These words can only supplement those used within the exhibition itself which are reproduced here so that you can take them away with you.



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THE ATROCITY EXHIBITION

& OTHER EMPIRE STORIES

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1. **Pilgrim Father/portrait of Harold George Rodney**

2. **Great Expectations**

Dear Diary,

I arrived from _____ two weeks ago today. I came equipped with only my three piece suit, a pocket full of dreams and a heart full of expectations. I kissed _____ goodbye and kissed hello.

Stray thoughts of fear to tread placed on these mean English streets. I had prayed for salvation from poverty and for my sins I stand here in the land of ritual betrayal.

3. **Ghosts In The Machines**

Dear Diary,

the devil finds work for idle hands and mine work the machines. This machine never stops. I am here with the others from 'back home' they work the machines too. We work and HE watches. He watches me watching him checking me out, inspecting my every move. Mr _____ rules over me and we make him rich by working his machines. The machine speaks out to me during the night shifts saying,

All this has gone on before. You too are just another slave. Mr _____ is the slave master and the machines are the cotton fields of the old South or even the reincarnation of the sugar plantations of Jamaica.

"This is not Freedom" said the ghost in the machines.

4. **Master & Servant**

5. **Psalm 38/Edge Of Darkness**

Dear God,

this is not as I was led to believe, this place, this cold and bitter land is bleak in prospects and bleaker is the hate from the lips of its people.

. . . . mine enemies are lively and they are strong and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. They also that render evil for good are my adversaries because I follow the thing that is good. Forsake me not oh Lord, oh my God. Be not far from me. Make haste. Help me oh Lord my salvation.

Dear God,

My Bible shall be my sword as I stand at the edge of darkness.

6. **Confusion**/portrait of the artist as a young man

Dear Diary,

the boy is neither here nor there, neither British nor _____. He is confused and confusing. The Mr Machines will make him defunct, a waste product of the savage culture. What will be his escape? What will be his weapon?

7. **Civis Britanius Sum**

Dear reader,

let me begin at the beginning, the absolute beginning. Cloud not your minds with the false pictures of my brethren and my kin as childlike innocents being led to the psychological slaughter. We never wanted to stop, just passing through, seeking reward for our sweat and toil and labour. I believed that I could utter the words 'Civis Britanius Sum' and those words would be true. But no such privilege would be mine in this savage culture. Looking back in anger at those monochrome years I realise its not good to be in a white man's country too long. My toil & blood & gristle built the foundations of this now decaying culture. Now in my twilight years I ponder on my children in the day time and Dallas at night. So here I stand watching them, watching me, watching them making moves and movies of their absolute lies.

8. **Flesh**

Our flesh became our only worth, dehumanised, burned & chained. Forced to breed & work, building empire lands that foam at the mouth with greed & evil.

9. **The Confederacy of Dunces**

Speak No Evil
Hear No Evil
See No Evil

10. **Ikon**



PUBLISHED BY OBAALA (ORGANISATION FOR BLACK ARTS ADVANCEMENT & LEISURE ACTIVITIES)
OBAALA HOUSE, 225 SEVEN SISTERS ROAD, FINSBURY PARK, LONDON N1 2DA. TEL 01-264 1918

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Private View: Friday 11th July 1986 7.30-9.30 You are welcome

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