

## **Beaconsfield at The Foundry 2015**

### **The Migrant Experience**

22 September – 18 December 2015, 10am – 5pm

The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR

Beaconsfield (Contemporary Art) is a charity based in Vauxhall for twenty years and set up to ‘occupy a niche between the institutional, the commercial and the ‘alternative’’. We have been invited to curate a selection of artists to exhibit over the coming year in the public spaces of new, neighbouring social justice and human rights centre, The Foundry.

Over a period of one year, each of the employees of Lebara, an organisation that provides communication services to the global migrant communities, researched over 700 individual migrant stories from all across the world. Some of these stories were Lebara employees’ own experiences and others were sourced by interviewing people who lived in their local community. Then the employees came together to share these stories, creating images reflecting on the themes that emerged from this extraordinary collection of migrant experiences.

Facilitated by artgym, employees came together in a series of creative events that were held in 7 different countries to share their stories and reflect on the thoughts, feelings and insights that emerged. These themes were captured in images that people drew as well as photographic portraits of people holding single words. From the rages of war to the allure of adventure, the drive to survive and to love, what emerged was a deeply touching, inspiring and authentic expression of people’s experiences of being alive.

All the content from this process was curated by artgym, distinguishing four distinct phases of the migrant journey: leaving, arriving, settling and staying. This exhibition, invited and devised by Beaconsfield and produced in collaboration with artgym, represents a sample of the 700 stories researched, shared and explored by the employees of Lebara.

#### **For more information:**

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