

**Broomberg and Chanarin to present a new film, *The Bureaucracy of Angels*,
for Art on the Underground in September 2017**



The Bureaucracy of Angels, courtesy of Broomberg & Chanarin, Art on the Underground & Lisson Gallery

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Broomberg and Chanarin will present a new 12 minute film, *The Bureaucracy of Angels*, within King's Cross Station for Art on the Underground, Transport for London's public art programme, in September 2017.

The Bureaucracy of Angels records the demolition of 100 migrant boats in Sicily in the winter of 2016. These boats arrived laden with refugees from North Africa and while their human cargo were either sent home or absorbed into the asylum system, the boats themselves were never returned to their owners, lying beached on the concrete forecourt of Porto Pozallo in Sicily.

Broomberg and Chanarin have a long history of working in war torn countries and areas of conflict. Their research on themes of migration and movements of people lead them naturally to the current migration crisis. The artists visited Sicily a number of times where they were able to explore the area where migrants arrive from perilous journeys across the Mediterranean. They filmed the rescue missions by the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) foundation off the coast of Libya as well as the destruction of the boats left to decay once the migrant journeys have been made, in a vast shipping grave yard in Porto Pozallo in Sicily.

The film is narrated by the hydraulic jaws of the digger charged with the job of destroying these boats, tearing them apart into their constituent parts of timber and metal, a process that took forty days to

complete. The digger appears in the narrow corridors of the boat yard, on the open sea and in the midst of a rescue operation off the coast of Libya, as a Cantastoria or 'singing storyteller', recounting the Sicilian ballad *Terra ca nun senti*. The song speaks of the fear and pain associated with immigration to and from Europe's most southerly territory over the last 150 years.

The commission will be shown within Kings Cross St Pancras Underground station in a location close to the exit of the Eurostar. The space was chosen for its link as a passageway between the UK and greater Europe, embedding the work within the station and enabling it to be shown to a transient audience.

On their commission for Art on the Underground, Broomberg and Chanarin commented: "When you go down into the Tube the goal is to always get out again as quickly as possible without distraction. In the words of one TfL employee we spoke to, it should be a totally unmemorable experience! Placing a film into such an environment is challenging, because a work of art should above all be memorable. Our goal was to gently disrupt the flow of people sleep-walking to work and back; confronting commuters with a very different kind of journey."

Eleanor Pinfield, Head of Art on the Underground stated: "Art on the Underground enriches people's journeys on the Tube each day by bringing the best public art to London. With this new commission, *The Bureaucracy of Angels*, by Broomberg and Chanarin, we aim to challenge viewers to reconsider issues surrounding migration, a matter that has a particular relevance to London, by going beyond the familiar images we have become so accustomed to in media outlets."

Forthcoming Art on the Underground commissions include 'Clay Station', a collaboration with artist Matthew Raw and Turner Prize winning architecture collective Assemble, involving the production of more than a thousand hand-made tiles as part of the refurbishment and remodelling of a commercial unit at the entrance to Seven Sisters Underground Station; a Day Tube pocket map cover by Marc Camille Chaimowicz and a Night Tube pocket map cover by Marianna Simnett.

The Bureaucracy of Angels will be on view within King's Cross St Pancras Underground Station, London, from 27 September 2017.

Notes to Editors

About Art on the Underground

Art on the Underground (AOTU) is a pioneer in commissioning contemporary artworks that enrich the journeys of millions on London's Underground each day. Established in 2000, Art on the Underground has worked with some of the best British and International artists, maintaining art as a central element of Transport for London's identity and engaging passengers and staff in a sense of shared ownership.

From large-scale commissions at Gloucester Road station to the pocket Tube map cover commissions, Art on the Underground is an ambitious, ground-breaking programme, and sits at the

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forefront of contemporary debate about how art can shape public space. The initiative strives to engage audiences, re-imagine spaces, and change the way we experience the city.

AOTU projects include: 'What is the city but the people?' by conceptual artist Jeremy Deller, in which a passport-sized booklet was given to operational staff on the Piccadilly line, with drivers and platform staff encouraged to use the quotes in their daily communications with customers; 'Labyrinth' by Turner Prize winning artist Mark Wallinger, in which a permanent artwork was created for each of the 270 stations; 'One Thing Leads to Another – Everything is Connected', a series of artworks commissioned for the Jubilee line, in which Daria Martin undertook a survey to discover passengers' daydreams as they travelled; ten large-scale photographs by internationally renowned artist Cindy Sherman, in a joint commission by London Underground and the Serpentine Gallery; and a #LondonIsOpen campaign in response to the EU referendum in 2016, involving ten artists including Tania Bruguera, creating artwork for sites across the Tube network.

About Broomberg and Chanarin

Adam Broomberg (born 1970, Johannesburg, South Africa) and Oliver Chanarin (born 1971, London, UK) are artists living and working in London. They are professors of photography at the Hochschule für bildende Künste (HFBK) in Hamburg, Germany and The Royal Academy of Art (KABK) at The Hague in The Netherlands. Together they have had numerous solo exhibitions at institutions including Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg, Sweden (2017); C/O Berlin, Berlin, Germany (2016); the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA (2016); the Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland (2015); The Freud Museum, London, UK (2015); ICA Studio, London, UK (2015); Jumex Foundation, Mexico City, Mexico (2014); FotoMuseum, Antwerp, Belgium (2014); Mostyn, Llandudno, UK (2014); Townhouse, Cairo, Egypt (2010); Musée de l'Elysee, Lausanne, France (2009) and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2006). Their participation in international group shows includes the 'British Art Show 8' (2015-2017); 'Conflict, Time, Photography' at Tate Modern, London, UK; Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany (2015); Shanghai Biennale, China (2014); Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (2014); Tate Britain, London, UK (2014); Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar (2013); Gwanju Biennale, South Korea (2012) and the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany (2011). Their work is held in major public and private collections including Tate, MoMA, Stedelijk, the V&A, the International Center of Photography, Musée de l'Élysée, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Cleveland Museum of Art. Major awards include the ICP Infinity Award (2014) for Holy Bible, and the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize (2013) for War Primer 2. Current projects: Documenta 14, Kassel, Germany, 10 June - 17 September 2017. Broomberg and Chanarin are represented by Lisson Gallery and Goodman Gallery.

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