

THE FACT IS THAT
MARTIN LUTHER KING
ALREADY HAS A
WANTED LISTED
BY SUBJECT
NO ONE CAN DENY THAT
DANIEL BELONGS TO
MARTIN LUTHER KING

ALICIA REYES MCNAMARA: NOWHERE ELSE 7 APR - 11 JUN 2017

Following six months as the South London Gallery's Graduate-in-Residence in the Outset Artists' Flat, Alicia Reyes McNamara presents her first solo show in a public institution. Reyes McNamara's work aims to challenge incomplete identities constructed by two-dimensional ideas of Latino culture. Her work translates the Mexican American or *Chicana* identity through her explorations of language as a territory and space to challenge ideas of authenticity within a diaspora.

Combining sculpture, painting and video work in the exhibition, Reyes McNamara investigates key texts by Mexican American theorist Gloria E. Anzaldúa, Dominican American writer Junot Díaz, and Cuban American poet Gustavo Pérez Firmat.

In her exhibition Reyes McNamara refers to the concept of an 'in-between' space where identity is fluid and where two cultures and their languages intersect. A monumental text piece, created from three dimensional letters dipped in plaster, highlights the words of Gustavo Pérez Firmat from his collection of poems *Bilingual Blues* and expresses the notion of bilingual and bicultural existence, more commonly known within the Latino community as *Mestizaje*.

The multiplicity of language and radical code-switching plays a significant role in the exhibition. A text piece which appears to traverse through the gallery wall is written in *Spanglish*, a hybrid language of English and Spanish, and suggests the idea of an in-between space in which a language of resistance is encouraged.

In a video work Reyes McNamara also explores the rituals and customs practiced in Latin America, and the reclaiming of these traditions and beliefs. Accompanied by the romantic ballad *Sin Ti* by the Latin trio Los Panchos, it features a pair of hands burying burnt-out candles into the earth, a symbolic ritual to harness and ground good intentions. The nails are decorated with elaborate decals of the Virgin Mary, Virgin of Guadalupe, Aztec goddess of the moon; *Coatlicue*, goddess of earth and fertility; *Tonantzin*, and goddess of filth and purification; *Tlazolteotl*, female icons who are often honoured in Latin American culture.

Residency supported by Artists Studio Company (ASC)

Photography is permitted in the galleries.

Artist biography

Alicia Reyes McNamara recently received her MFA from the University of Oxford's Ruskin School of Art, after completing her BFA at California College of the Arts. Her work was included in the *Bloomberg New Contemporaries* exhibition at the Bluecoat and ICA in 2016.

www.aliciareyesmcnamara.net

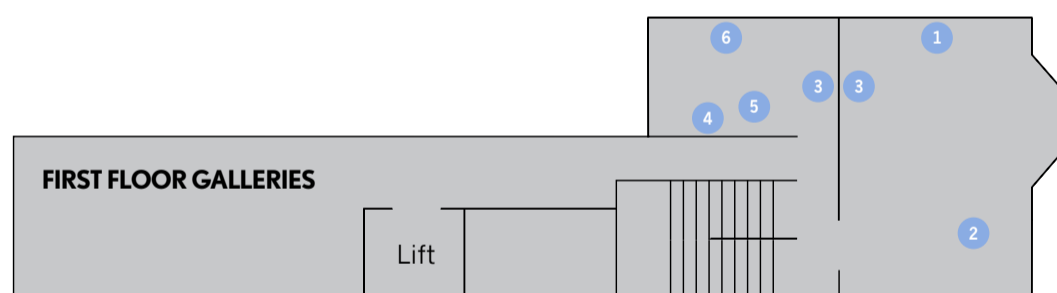
T @SLG_artupdates

I @SouthLondonGallery

F South London Gallery

www.southlondongallery.org/AliciaReyesMcNamara

LIST OF WORKS



1. *Nowhere Else*, 2017
Plaster, wood, cotton,
polystyrene beads
143 x 280 x 27cm

2. *As they move*, 2017
Ceramic, polystyrene,
expandable foam
270 x 225 x 94cm

3. *Same time / Same tiempo*, 2017
Acrylic mirror, plaster,
polystyrene, acrylic paint,
cotton towel
27.5 x 60 x 145cm

4. *Abajo de la tierra*, 2017
HD film, colour, sound
1 min 28 secs
Camera work by Electra Lyhne-Gold

5. *Her hands*, 2017
Ceramic, mirrored acrylic
15 x 50cm diameter

6. *Untitled*, 2017
Oil and acrylic paint
106 x 122 x 4.5cm

The **SLG Graduate Residency 2016–17** was an open submission 6-month residency opportunity available to artists completing a postgraduate MA, MFA, PGDip, MRes or equivalent programme of study, from a national institution, collective, or art school in the UK between October 2015 and October 2016. The residency enables the production of a new body of work and is a rare opportunity for a recent graduate to have a solo exhibition in an internationally renowned gallery and benefit from mentoring and financial support.

Find out more about the SLG residency programmes:
www.southlondongallery/residencies

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

Brujxs

Wed 3 May, 7pm, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

A curated visual and audio collage around the figure of the *Brujx*, co-organised by Alicia Reyes McNamara, Daniella Valz Gen and Teresa Cisneros.

Alicia Reyes McNamara in Conversation

Wed 24 May, 7pm, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

Alicia Reyes McNamara discusses her practice with curator and writer Chandra Frank and artist Daniella Valz Gen.

Alicia Reyes McNamara in Conversation with Zoe Whitley

Wed 7 Jun, 7pm, £5/£3 conc, Clore Studio

Alicia Reyes McNamara discusses her work with curator Zoe Whitley.

Exhibition Tours

Daily, 1pm & Last Fridays, 7pm, Free

Join the SLG's gallery assistants for an informal, drop-in tour of the current exhibitions.

*Booking for most events is essential,
book online or call 020 7703 6120.*

*Join our network of Fans today and pay less for tickets:
southlondongallery.org/fans*

ALSO SHOWING AT THE SLG

Erik van Lieshout: Three Social Works

Until 11 June 2017

Main Gallery, Free

Sign up to the SLG mailing list and receive our the latest news and updates: southlondongallery.org/maillinglist

This gallery guide is printed on recycled paper. If you do not wish to keep this guide, please consider returning it at the end of your visit so that it can be reused.

Front cover image credit: Alicia Reyes McNamara, *Nowhere Else*, installation view at the South London Gallery, 2017. Courtesy the artist. Photo Andy Stagg

SLG

South London Gallery, 65–67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH
020 7703 6120 mail@southlondongallery.org
www.southlondongallery.org



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



South London Gallery is a registered charity no.312160.
It is registered as company no.04720002 (SLG Trustee Ltd)