

An incomplete history of Peckham

1900

2014

THE

SUBJECT

INDEX

Anna Best

Open

20 January 2015

Close

22 March 2015

20 January – 22 March 2015

# THE SUBJECT INDEX

## Anna Best

An incomplete history of Peckham  
1900 – 2014

### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

More than 1,000 items and artefacts relating to Peckham's history and perceived social identity will go on display in January as part of Peckham Platform's first commission of 2015. The Subject Index is a collaboration between artist Anna Best, Peckham Platform and Southwark Local History Library and Archive (SLHA) – a public resource on Borough High Street. Spending many hours in the archive, Best has extracted material about Peckham and its environs (including pamphlets and ephemera, press cuttings, books, films, index cards, maps and photographs) and will bring this collection to the gallery on Peckham Square where the archive will be recreated.

The Subject Index is a document that has been created by the SLHA, which outlines the categories within the archive. This index is alphabetical and based on the Dewey Decimal system and is the primary method for visitors to navigate the materials in the archive. Best's interest in the index is that it appears to be a rational system for navigation but in fact it is subjective and depends on the individual choices made by the archivist whose responsibility it is to file the items. The words that form these categories will be utilised in the exhibition as a way of highlighting their poetic nature.

Best likens the project to an 'embassy – one territory camping in another'. In this case, an archive – replete with filing cabinets, archivist's desk and a photocopier – will occupy the gallery. Visitors to the exhibition will not only find items of historical interest to look at – they will also find gaps in what the archive does not represent. Best said:

'Working in the archive, I've been fascinated by the gaps in our view of reality. An archive may look seamless but in fact it is not; anything that is not mentioned has the appearance of not having happened.'

### WHAT'S ON

#### Public Opening

20 January 6–8pm

Join us for the opening of 'The Subject Index' by artist Anna Best who has been exploring the histories of Peckham during her residency at Southwark Local History Library and Archive. Local history librarian Steven Potter will introduce the archive, which forms part of Peckham Platform's first commission of 2015.

#### Future Southwark

26 January 6–7.30pm

Join this public meeting about the New Southwark Plan that will define how the borough will change over the next 15 years. Don't miss this opportunity to meet members of Southwark Council and tell them what you think about the proposals and the issues at stake. Historic civic banquet menus from the archive will be displayed.

#### Last Friday – Peckham Archive

30 January 6–8pm

Join us for a late night opening and discussion with archivist Patricia Dark. Drawing on the archive, the event will explore the significance of Southwark's role as a hotbed of activism around issues of social reform alongside profiles of the 20th century's notable women of Peckham. Organised in association with the National Archives as part of the South London Art Map.

#### Artist Talk

5 February 6.30–8pm

Join us for a talk with artist Anna Best, Anna Harding (chief executive, SPACE) and Emily Druiff (executive director, Peckham Platform). Find out more about the collaborative commissioning process behind the exhibition as well as a look back at Best's past practice including 'A Real Pony Race For A Bridle' 1997 and how it links to her current work.

#### Half Term Workshops

18–22 February

Stuck for something to do this half term? Come and join the fun here at Peckham Platform where you can learn all about the amazing materials in the Peckham archive and contribute to it through submitting your own personal archive materials. Tell your friends and make some history! <http://peckham-platform.tumblr.com>.

#### Last Friday

27 February 5.30–8pm

Join Anna Best for a public participatory performance Reading Rye Lane. Departing from Flat Time House, 210 Bellenden Rd, London SE15 4BW at 5.30pm to Peckham Platform where there will be a screening of highlights from Consume Peckham, a film project documenting local businesses by students from Chelsea College of Art & Design. <http://flattimeho.org.uk>.

#### Learning Activities

Throughout the exhibition we offer free creative and educational activities for people of all ages. Join us to learn about the Peckham archive and contribute to it through submitting your own personal ephemera that tells your story on our learning blog. We are a registered Arts Award Centre and Arts Awards Supporter and can help groups to achieve their award. We welcome group and school visits, to book a visit to the exhibition please contact our Learning Officer [peter@peckhamplatform.com](mailto:peter@peckhamplatform.com).

### SUPPORT PECKHAM PLATFORM!

Peckham Platform is a UK charity that believes that there can be no art without people. Just as we need our community partners to produce our artistic programme we need your generous support to help us to reach our goals for our 2015. Text PECK001 to 70970 to give £5 now or visit [www.peckhamplatform.com/support-us](http://www.peckhamplatform.com/support-us) to make a contribution of any size. Thank you, we can't do it without you!

#### Opening Times

Public Launch

20 January 2015, 6–8pm

20 January–22 March 2015

Wednesday–Friday, 11am–6pm

Saturday–Sunday, 10am–5pm

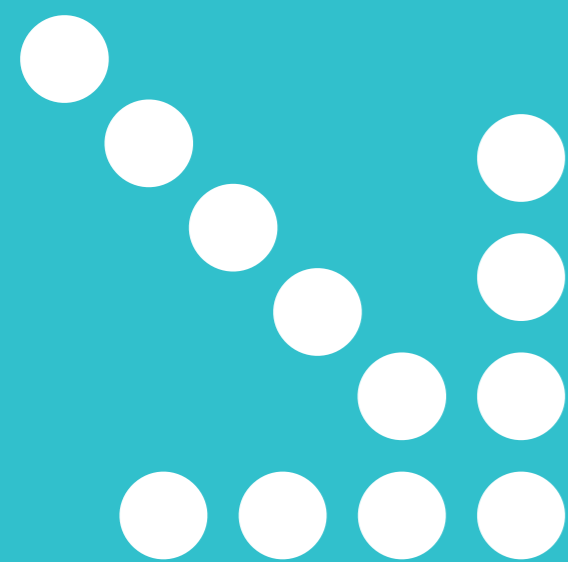
#### Venue

Peckham Platform  
89 Peckham High Street  
London SE15 5RS

#### Contact

[info@peckhamplatform.com](mailto:info@peckhamplatform.com)  
0207 358 9645  
[www.peckhamplatform.com](http://www.peckhamplatform.com)

Join our e-newsletter by signing up at [www.peckhamplatform.com](http://www.peckhamplatform.com)



# Peckham Platform

