

#### BELFAST EXPOSED PHOTOGRAPHY

has the pleasure of inviting you to the exhibition preview of

# **MIGRATIONS**

Opening Thursday 15 June 06 | 7 - 9pm

**Exhibition** 16 June - 25 August 06

The first of two exhibitions exploring different contemporary experiences of migration. A second exhibition, exploring the visibility of migrant identity and experience in Northern Ireland will run through September 2006.

Andrea Lange Refugee Talks, 1998

Anthony Haughey Between: Photographs from the Government of Ireland Reception

Centre, Mosney, Co. Meath, 2005

Breda Beban Arrivals, 2003

Penny Siopis My Lovely Day, 1997

Terence Wright Multi media work, 2006

#### BELFAST EXPOSED PHOTOGRAPHY

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Front Image: Anthony Haughey, from Between, 2005

Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach and the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of holidaymakers every year since it opened. 48C ÉIRE Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline and closure of many camps during the 1980s and 1990s. Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for asylum seekers in 2000 and is now home to more than 750 asylum seekers from all over the world. to the Minister of Trustice ROSSLARE-FISHGUARD 1906-2006 ROS LAIR-FISHGUARD Dear Sir. We the women Residents in Mosney Belfast Exposed sequest float girl 23 Donegall St legalise our status in Belfast BTI 2FF Iseland by asking you to give us and our families leave to remain. Please no more deportations.

HYPERLINK "http://www.belfastexposed.org" www.belfastexposed.org HYPERLINK "mailto:info@belfastexposed.org" info@belfastexposed.org

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#### PRESS RELEASE

# MIGRATIONS 16 JUNE TO 25 AUGUST

Exhibition opening event 15 JUNE, 7 – 9pm

EXHIBITING ARTISTS: Anthony Haughey Andrea Lange Breda Beban Penny Siopis

Terence Wright

**MIGRATIONS** is part of a multi-stranded project being developed by Belfast Exposed exploring different experiences of migration. There will be a second exhibition in September 2006 considering specifically the 'visibility' of migrant identity and experience in Northern Ireland. A programme of screenings, discussions, talks and workshops will accompany and contribute to the September show. This first exhibition, opening on 15 June 2006 will feature major works on the subject of migration by well-known, contemporary artists and researchers; Anthony Haughey, Andrea Lange, Breda Beban, Penny Siopis and Terence Wright.

#### Between (2005) by Anthony Haughey

Migrations will feature a number of photographic portraits from Anthony Haughey's Between series. Between is a collaborative visual media project critically exploring negotiation of citizenship with residents in a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, a former Butlins Holiday Camp, Co. Meath, Ireland. Haughey has been engaged in discussion with the current residents of Mosney regularly since October 2004. He is involved in various learning, teaching and support situations within this community and forming friendships and shared ideas through discussion with a group of mostly Nigerian asylum seekers.

'I am learning about the everyday experience of negotiating citizenship from the point of view of individuals temporarily housed, stateless and awaiting a decision which will decide their fate, either licence to remain or deportation by the Department of Justice. Some families have lived in Mosney for over three years. Migrants are forced by circumstance to start out on a journey from home, clearly this journey and all its implications is not taken lightly. On arrival in the host country a complex and contested series of negotiations for citizenship and human rights begins.' Anthony Haughey

## Refugee Talks (1998) by Andrea Lange

DV-Cam/DVD, 33 min

Refugee Talks consists of nine sequences, each featuring one or several persons performing a song. The protagonists are all refugees from different countries who lived in the same reception centre in Oslo during the winter of 1998. Each of them chose a song that was relevant to their own situation, and to the film they appear in. The work is shot at various locations within the reception centre in the common rooms or the family rooms. The title is taken from Bertolt Brecht's Flüchtlingsgespräche (written in exile 1940-41).

"Andrea Lange's works are involved with the human drama of community. For her, issues of

displacement, assimilation and difference revolve around the central point of communication, inclusion and understanding. In a range of profound projects over a number of years she has investigated the situation of confrontation, incarceration, and commemoration to reveal the complexities inherent in the idea of placing the self inside the system of the other." Extract from catalogue text by Juliana Engberg, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA)

#### Arrivals (2003) by Breda Beban

Photo series, 2003/2005, C-type prints

Breda Beban's work is about subjectivity and emotion occurring on the margins of big stories about politics, geography and love. *Arrivals* is a series of 8 sets of four photographs evoking in an uncomplicated and explicit way an experience of absence felt by those inhabiting the space between an unbroken desire (longing) and a broken sense of belonging. Each set of photographs depict; a picture of a bed(s), a picture of a window in bedroom, a picture of scene from a window and a close-up on some aspect of the same scene from the window. These photo-works are structured like narratives: they are literally a story of an escape, of a journey and of arrivals. The story is not told with the fluid realism of film, but through the repetitive frozen frames of photography. The photos are also intimate proofs, not just of arrivals, but also of departures – the blanking out of arrivals, the process of removal of all traces of someone who once was there.

"Breda Beban's work epitomises the distinct capacity of a work of art to describe life simply and without obvious elaboration, and to invest it with the profundity of human emotion" Charlotte Cotton, The Photograph as Contemporary Art (Thames & Hudson, 2004)

#### My Lovely Day (1997) by Penny Siopis

8mm colour film transferred to video and DVD, 21 minutes

My Lovely Day combines spliced sequences of 8mm home movies that the artist's mother shot in the 1950s and 1960s in South Africa with sound and visual text which tell an elemental story of migration, displacement and exile. The words (narrative) are those of Siopis' maternal grandmother telling her grandchildren, of her emotional and literal journeys between Europe, Greece and South Africa in the early part of last century. The moment of her telling is apartheid South Africa, as are the scenes captured on film, yet her references to social turmoil and catastrophe are those of an earlier time-the 1922 Greco-Turkish conflict in Smyrna, World War I and World War II. The sound combines traditional Greek music and song, with Siopis' mother's voice singing 'My Lovely Day', made as a 78 record in 1955. The uneven quality of the found footage – the jumps, sprocket tracks, scratches, light flares, camera movements, frail focus and intrusion of peripheral images – dramatises the quality of the film as artefact and in a way stands for the fragmentary nature of memory. My Lovely Day, as intensely autobiographical as it is an engagement with conditions of postcoloniality, was stimulated in part by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa. The TRC, which began in1996, brought a hidden archive of personal memory into collective consciousness.

'My grandmother's story is of stoic, unsettled exile, but the film is also a much larger allegory of migration and displacement, and the effects of what we might now call globalisation.'

Penny Siopis

### Migrations (2006) by Terence Wright

Multimedia presentation

Today's media is characterised by attempts to search for more simplistic treatment of current affairs. Yet when we stop to think about how much of our knowledge of the world is derived from pictures, we find that there is also very little general understanding about how visual images communicate this information. Against this background, journalism as a profession has become 'promiscuous', disparate and diffuse; yet Western governments appear to be increasingly responsive to public opinion. It is becoming increasingly important not only to analyse the ability of visual images to create new discourses, but also necessary to examine the social and institutional constraints on their function.

Migrations is a multimedia presentation that considers some contemporary images of refugees and looks for patterns and common elements in their construction and usage. It identifies some historical archetypes that are used to portray the subject of forced migration and questions the role of the mass

media in aiding the relief of humanitarian crises.

#### **ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES:**

Anthony Haughey is an artist and Senior Research Fellow at Interface, the Centre for Research in Art, Technologies and Design at Ulster University, Belfast. He was previously Head of the Department of Media at the Dublin Institute of Technology. His research and audio-visual artworks have been exhibited, published and collected internationally, most recently the installation *Resolution*, was acquired for the permanent collection of Wolverhampton Art Gallery. His recent publication, *Disputed Territory* is the culmination of his project on post-conflict countries in Europe, including Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo. He is currently researching and producing a collaborative video installation with a group of asylum seekers housed in a government of Ireland Asylum Seekers Reception Centre, the former Butlin's Holiday Camp, Mosney, Co. Meath. His chapter contribution, *Imaging the Unimaginable* will be published in *Projecting Migrations*, *Transnational Documentary Practices*, a forthcoming Wallflower Press Publication and DVD-ROM.

Andrea Lange lives and works in Oslo, Norway. Lange studied at The National Academy of Fine Arts in Bergen, Norway and Accademia di Belle Arti Pietro Vanucci in Perugia, Italy. She works with various medias, such as photography, audio- and videoinstallations. Issues concerning identity and cultural encounters and diversity are often central in her artistic approach. Lange has participated in a number of exhibitions, among them: Northern Lights Film Festival in Newcastle, MOMENTUM 04 – Nordic Biennial for Contemporary Art, Fundamentalisms of the New Order in Copenhagen, Refuge at Henie Onstad Artcentre in Oslo, Milano Europa 2000 La Triennale di Milano and Melbourne International Biennial. Most recent shows at The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo and with the project Arabic Lesson at the Stenersenmuseum in Oslo.

Breda Beban was born in Serbia and raised in Macedonia and Croatia. She lives and works in London and Sheffield where she is a Professor of Visual Arts at the Sheffield Hallam University. Beban's film Walk of Three Chairs is currently staged as part of the BRITISH ART SHOW 6 (touring exhibition, 2005/06). Recent exhibitions and presentations of Beban's work have taken place at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Museum Reina Sofia, Madrid and Museum of Contemporary Art, Zgareb (2005); Tate Modern (2004); National Film Theatre, London and Cinema Zuid, Amsterdam (2003). Her films were part of Artists' Film and Video, ArtNow Lightbox, Tate Britain and A Century of Artists' Film in Britain, Tate Britain (2003). In 2002 Beban curated Imaginary Balkans, a group exhibition which was on show at Site Gallery, Sheffield (2002); Cornerhouse, Manchester and at the Stills Gallery, Edinburgh (2003). Beban is currently curating imagine art after, a multi-stage project whose fist stage - an online exhibition and dialogue was hosted by Guardian Unlimited (Nov/Dec 2005). Beban was a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Award for Visual Arts, UK, 2001. Her film Jason's Dream received the Silver Award for Music Film & Video, Worldfest, Houston International Film Festival, USA, 1999.

Penny Siopis is a South African of Greek descent. She lives in Johannesburg where she works as an artist and lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand. She studied fine arts at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. She was awarded a British Council scholarship and continued her studies in the United Kingdom. Her work has been shown in many international biennales including the Venice Biennale (1993), the Johannesburg Biennales (1995, 1997), the Kwangju Biennale (1995) and the Havana Biennales (1994, 1997). She has also participated in a many international exhibitions: Democracy's Images: Photography and Visual Art after Apartheid, BildMuseet, Umea (1998); La Mémoire, (part of an international exhibition on the thematic cycle, La Ville, Le Jardin, La Mémoire – 1998-2000), Villa Medici, Rome, (1999); Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Museum of African Art, New York (1999); Lines of Sight: Perspectives in South African Photography, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, (2001); Africas: The Artist and the City, Centre de Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, Barcelona (2003); Kwere-Kwere: Journeys into Strangeness, Amicitae, Amsterdam (2003): New Identities: Contemporary South African Art, Museum Bochum, Bochum (2004); Mine(d)fields, Kunsthaus, Basel, (2004). Siopis's most recent solo exhibition was *Three Essays on Shame* at the Freud Museum in London, 2005.

**Dr Terence Wright** is Reader in Theoretical Studies in Visual Art at the University of Ulster. Formerly he was Professor in Photography: Art & Media Theory at Kunsthogskolen, Bergen, Norway and Senior Research Officer at Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford. There he ran the project 'Moving Images: the Media Representation of Refugees' which conducted an in-depth review of the media reporting of refugee crises and the response of aid agencies. 'Moving Images' was funded by The Pilgrim Trust and the Esmee Fairbairn Trust. He taught for eight years at the UK's National Film & Television School and has ten years experience as a

photojournalist, working for BBC Television and ITN for various programmes such as Panorama, Newsnight and Crimewatch.

MIGRATIONS RESEARCHERS: Alex Rotas, Bath Spa University, Anthony Haughey, Interface, Centre for Research in Art, Technologies and Design, University of Ulster, Belfast, **Dr Daniel Jewesbury**, Centre for Media Research, University of Ulster, Coleraine and Karen Downey, Belfast Exposed Photography

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Belfast Exposed Photography would like to thank the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council for their generous support for this project.

#### **Postcards from Mosney**

Artist Anthony Haughey has been working with a group of asylum seekers currently resident in a Government of Ireland Department of Justice Reception Centre in Mosney for more than 3 years. Mosney is a former Butlins Holiday Camp located near Drogheda in County Meath, which became a temporary home for hundreds of asylum seekers from more than forty-eight countries in 2000.

Butlins Mosney opened in 1948 and was a holiday destination for thousands of families from all over Ireland including Belfast and Northern Ireland; especially in July when hundreds of people headed across the border to escape the tension of the marching season.

Butlins Holiday Camps were made famous through John Hindes postcards which circulated widely all over the world. Hindes deeply saturated colour postcards created an appropriate illusion of happy holidays, even though the reality may have been very different.

The idea of these pictures - Butlins – was that anybody looking at them should have thought that this was a great place to have a holiday in. *Emar Ludwig*, photographer, John Hinde Studios.

This intervention will acumulate personal messages from Mosney asylum seekers written on faded historical John Hinde postcards. The postcard depicts the boating lake in Butlins Mosney when this holiday camp was at its height and a temporary home to thousands of holidaymakers.

Asylum Seekers normally have no recourse to public protest, or political voice, aspects of democracy that naturalised citizens take for granted.

Each personal message is directed to the Irish Minister of Justice, Michael McDowell. Every asylum seeker in Ireland is familiar with the Minister of Justice and follow every news report on Irish immigration policy in the hope that a new directive will offer the residents leave to remain. Some of the residents have lived in Mosney for more than four years still waiting for a decision from the Department of Justice.

The postcards will be sent from the Reception Centre in Mosney to here in the gallery throughout the period of the *Migrations* exhibition. The final destination of these postcards will be the Minister of Justices' office in Dublin and hopefully a dialogue?

Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach and the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymake SIDE Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the declin camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Irelan. seekers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the world. Dear Macdonall I have been in this Country for almost 2 Jeans and lived Belfast exposed in mosney for The Pall 23 Donegal Street One Jean. 1 get to Belfast BT 12 ff a point | aske my Self If I have wronged you on the got ste for me to be deprive. Status. John Qwar from Ghang

Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private heach and the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers every year since it or Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline and closure of many hi camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for as seekers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the world. Dear macdowell Eire 2006 / clce The name Joy to help me Belfist express 23 Donegal Street to be part of The Belfast people that are helping to contribut to the economy of This Conty by group me Status. All my status in mosary since past 21/2 + ears in mosary from. NIGERIA

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Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers every year since it opered

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Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach and the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers every year since it opened. Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline and closure of many holiday camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for asylumseekers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the world. HI Michael, I've never had the comple to write you before but I'm doing it now: Please let me live in freland, I am not 23 Donegall St a trouble malcer, I please to Belfast be a useful citizien

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Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate local Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holida Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of seckers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the wo	rymakers every year since it opened. decline and closure of many holiday f Ireland Reception Centre for asylum-
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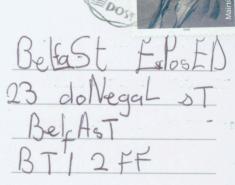
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Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers every year since it ÉIRE 48c Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline and closure of many camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for seekers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the world. Dear Mc dowell I am 12 going to 13. I have 2 younger sisters MOSCA E FISHBUARD 1906 - 2006 ROS LAIR FISHBUAR and an older brother and i Belfast Exposed live in Mosney I don't like 23 Conegal ST it here as much as where it used to live. I have been Beligst here for almost 2½ years now. BT1 2 FF I still have hardly any friends an assylum seeker of really need someone to talk to: Jenny

Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach and the

Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers or Umpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline a camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland seckers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the world.

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BelFast Exposed
23 Donegal St
Belfast
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Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach and the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers every year since it opened. Impredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline and closure of many holiday camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for asylung seckers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seckers from all over the world.

I have an idea for you, if you let us stay in heland, we promise to contribute possitive by to the elonomic fate and standard of this nation. Bless 104, frem Wosempidne



Belfast Exposed

23 Donegall St

Belfast

BTI 2FF

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Butlins Mosney was established in 1948. The site is a former country estate located close to a private beach a Buttins Mosney was established in 1246. The sale is a lating to a lating to the buttin-Belfast railway line. The camp has accommodated thousands of Irish holidaymakers every year since it 48c Unpredictable weather, changing tastes and cheap package holidays abroad led to the decline and closure of many camps during the 1980s and 1990s. The Mosney holiday camp became a Government of Ireland Reception Centre for seekers in 2000 and is now home to more than 450 asylum seekers from all over the world. MICHAEL WHAT DEAR I DONE SORT OUT SLARE FISHGUARD 1906 - 2006 ROS TAIR FISHGUARD HAVE SHATERED LIFE. BELFAST EXPOSED PIECE BACK TOGETHER 23 DONEGOL ST MY EXISTANCE FROM BeLFAST WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BTI2FF SO I WOULDN'T HAVE IT BOTTLED UP INSIDE Me! GIVE ME RESTOENCY IN IRELAND. TOMIWA

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