

## Whose Map is it? new mapping by artists

2 June – 24 July 2010

### Iniva at Rivington Place

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Iniva's summer season at Rivington Place includes a group exhibition - *Whose Map is it?*, a symposium and other events which present new approaches to mapping. Nine contemporary international artists question the underlying structures and hierarchies that inform traditional mapmaking. They provide individual insights that inscribe new, often omitted perspectives onto the map.

Film, installation, print and audio are used to challenge the authority of the map and explore wider social and political issues. *Whose Map is it?* includes three new commissions by Gayle Chong Kwan, Susan Stockwell and Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, alongside recent work by Milena Bonilla, Alexandra Handal, Bouchra Khalili, Otobong Nkanga, Esther Polak and Oraib Toukan.

For centuries artists have been drawn to the subject of maps to examine self-positioning and global geographies. The artists in *Whose Map is it?* continue this process by challenging the objective nature of the map. The exhibition opens a dialogue about contemporary experiences of space, and the meaning of the map today.

'Maps show where places are, but they also reveal geographical, political, social and artistic landscapes. In the hands of artists, maps can illustrate new perspectives on our world.' Steve Brace, Head of Education and Outdoor Learning, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Maps are part of debates around subjects such as resources, territoriality, identity and migration. Globalisation has changed how we see the world and the two dimensional map no longer represents the rapidly changing trans-national, multi-authored world that we live in. Our ideas of the map have also changed as a result of increasing access to GIS (Geographical Information System) and new technologies such as GPS (Global Positioning System).

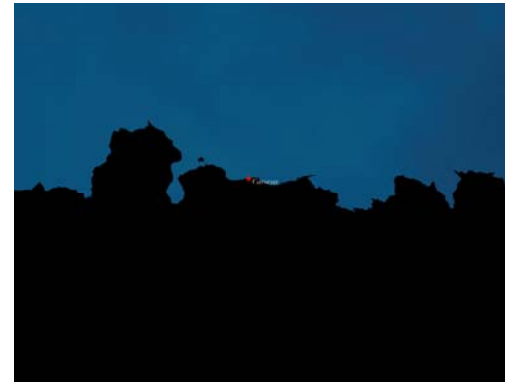
The *Crossing Boundaries* symposium on 2 June 2010, developed in collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), discusses subjects raised by the exhibitions at Rivington Place and the RGS-IBG. Artists,



geographers and theorists lead discussions on the making of maps, considering the power plays and legacy of creative approaches to spatial thinking. For booking details visit [www.iniva.org](http://www.iniva.org)



Otobong Nkanga, *Delta Stories: Collapsed Projects*, 2005-06, 24 x 32 cm, drawing/ink and acrylic on paper, copyright the artist



Milena Bonilla, *Variations on a homogenous landscape (Venezuela)*, 2006, series of 27 posters, each 21 x 28 cm, copyright the artist

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#### Editor's notes

##### Exhibition at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG): The Creative Compass 6 May – 2 July 2010

Artists Agnes Poitevin-Navarre and Susan Stockwell use maps and mapping to explore questions around globalisation and identity. This exhibition and accompanying programme of talks and workshops funded by the Arts Council England, is an opportunity to see some of their existing work alongside newly commissioned pieces.

1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, admission: free

#### Exhibiting artists' work and biographies:

**Milena Bonilla** shows *Variations on a homogeneous landscape (2006)*, this series of 27 posters depicts a dislocated map of America, questioning scientific means of cartography and its relation to landscape and history. Milena Bonilla was born in 1975 in Bogotá, Colombia and lives and works in Amsterdam, Netherlands. She is currently artist in residence at Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam. In 2008 she held a solo-exhibition at Valenzuela Klenner Gallery in Bogotá. Recent group exhibitions include *X Havana Biennial*, Havana (2009), *BB3 Bucharest Biennial* at Simeza in Bucharest and Umea in Sweden (2008), and *Once More With Feeling: A Season of Colombian Photography* at the Photographers' Gallery, London (2008).

**Gayle Chong Kwan** presents *Save the Last Dance for Me*, the work consists of a large-scale map illustrating Laban notation techniques to record the movement and migration of a culturally specific dance, accompanied by a sound piece giving gallery visitors dance instructions. Gayle Chong Kwan was born in 1973 in Edinburgh, UK and lives and works in London, UK. Her recent solo-exhibitions include *Terroir and the Pathetic Fallacy*, ArtSway (2009); *The Land of Peach Blossom*, Graves Gallery, Sheffield (2008); *Memoryscape Moravia* (2009); *Cockaigne and Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, Platform for Art (2006-8). Group exhibitions include *Pot Luck*, Art Circuit (touring exhibition), New Art Gallery Walsall, UK (2008-9) and *Tales of the New World*, Havana Biennial (2009).

#### **Alexandra Handal's *Labyrinth of Remains and Migration (2000-01 & 2010)* is a series of mental maps charting spaces of obliteration, dispossession, memory and destruction in Palestine.**

Alexandra Handal was born in 1975 into a Palestinian family in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and spent her adolescence in the Dominican Republic and USA. She lives and works between London and Jerusalem. Her recent exhibitions include: *New Contemporaries 2009*, A Foundation, London and Cornerhouse, Manchester UK (2009); *The Other Shadow of the City*, Al-Hoash Gallery, Jerusalem (2009). Solo exhibitions include *Alexandra Handal, Recent Work*, International Center of Bethlehem, Al-Kahf Gallery, Bethlehem, Palestine (2004). She is currently completing a PhD in Fine Art (Practice & Theory) at Chelsea College of Art and Design, London, UK.



**Bouchra Khalili shows the film series *Mapping Journey #1, #2, #3* (2008/09) aiming to reveal the underground and hidden maps of displacement that migratory experience produces.** Bouchra Khalili was born in 1975 in Casablanca, Morocco and lives and works in Paris, France. Her recent solo-exhibitions include *Storytellers*, galerieofmarseille, Marseille (2008); *Focus on Bouchra Khalili*, Museum of Modern Art, Salvador do Bahia, Brazil (2007); *Méditerranée, Méditerranées*, Caixa Forum of Art, Barcelona (2006). Group exhibitions include *Tarjama/Translation*, Queens Museum of Art, New York (2009); *El Sur de Nuevo Reina Sofia* National Museum, Madrid (2009), *Middle East Channel: Résistance(s) I & II*, and *The Third Guangzhou Triennial*, Guangzhou, China (2008). In 2010 Bouchra received the CulturesFrance Hors les Murs Award.

**Otobong Nkanga includes *Delta Stories* (2005/06) which is a series of 18 drawings, narrating ecological, political and social transformation in the oil rich Delta region in Nigeria.** Otobong Nkanga was born in 1974 in Kano, Nigeria and lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium and Paris, France. She has exhibited widely internationally. Recent shows include: *Animism*, Extra City Kunsthal and MuHKA Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp (2010); *Flow*, Studio Museum Harlem, New York (2008); *Africa Remix* (touring exhibition), Hayward Gallery, London (2005); *Snap judgments: New Positions in African Contemporary Photography*, touring exhibition New York (2006). In the last five years, she participated in the Sharjah, Taipei, Dakar, São Paulo and Havana Biennials.

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**Esther Polak's NomadicMILK (2009) follows dairy transporters and Fulani nomadic herdsmen in Nigeria, mapping both their routes with GPS to visualize the variety and economics of dairy transportation that take place throughout Nigeria.** Esther Polak was born in 1962 in Amsterdam, Netherlands and lives and works there. She is a pioneer within the field of locative media art. Recent exhibitions of NomadicMILK include Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria (2009), Transmediale, Berlin (2009). Other exhibitions include *Spiral Drawing Sunrise* Medialab, Prado, Madrid (2008), *Ars Electronica*, Linz, Austria (2005), *Making Things Public*, ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany (2005) and *AmsterdamREALTIME-diary in traces*, Municipal Arvive, Amsterdam (2002).

**Susan Stockwell's work is concerned with issues of ecology, beauty, mapping, colonial histories, trade and global commerce. *For Whose Map is it?* Stockwell was commissioned to produce the site-specific window piece *Red Road Arteries* (2010).** Susan Stockwell was born in Manchester and lives and works in London, UK. She has exhibited at The National Museum of China, Beijing and The Katonah Museum of Art, USA. She will be part of the group shows *Quilts 1700 -2010*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London (2010), and *The Creative Compass*, The Royal Geographical Society Gallery, London (2010)

**Oraib Toukan presents *The New(er) Middle East* (2007), an interactive puzzle in the shape of a territorial map of the Middle East, humorously playing on the so-called 'New Middle East Map' suggested by an US Army Lieutenant.** Oraib Toukan was born 1977 in Boston, USA and lives and works in Amman, Jordan and New York, USA. Her recent shows include *Istanbul Biennial* (2009), *Talking Heads*, IMOCA, Dublin (2010) and *Counting Memories*, Darat Al Funun Amman (2007). In 2009 she was international resident artist at Delfina Foundation, London and at Artist Alliance, New York.

**Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa's new commission, *A Continuing Survey of Syntactic Parsing*, includes charts that juxtapose British narratives of exploration and conquest with touchstones, landmarks, peaks and triumphs of British bourgeois life.** Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa was born 1976 in Glasgow, and lives and works in London, UK. Currently Emma is participating in the LUX Artists Associate Programme, London. Recent solo-shows include *A Brush for Robben Island, Butcher's Projects* at Rokeby Gallery, London, UK (2008). She participated in selected exhibitions and screenings including *Complex Financial Instruments*, S1 Artspace, Sheffield (2009); *Wo ist Jetzt?/ Where is Now?*, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany (2008); and *Bang Hwang Ha Num Byul/ Wandering Star: British-Korean Landscape*, Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, Korea (2008).

#### **For further information on *Whose Map is it?* exhibition and events**

For high resolution images and further press information please contact:

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#### **Listings Information**

Venue: **Rivington Place**, London, EC2A 3BA  
Exhibition: **Whose Map is it? new mapping by artists**  
Dates: **2 June – 24 July 2010**



Rivington Place public opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am – 6pm  
Late Thursdays: 11am – 9pm (last admission 8.30pm)  
Saturday: 12noon – 6pm  
Sunday, Monday: Closed  
Admission: Free  
Nearest tubes: Old Street & Liverpool Street  
Rivington Place is fully accessible in all public areas  
For parking & wheelchair facilities or further information  
about Rivington Place +44 (0)20 7749 1240, [info@rivingtonplace.org](mailto:info@rivingtonplace.org), <http://www.rivingtonplace.org>

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### **About Iniva**

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) engages with new ideas and emerging debates in the contemporary visual arts, reflecting in particular the cultural diversity of contemporary society. We work with artists, curators, creative producers, writers and the public to explore the vitality of visual culture. ([www.iniva.org](http://www.iniva.org))

**Iniva** is supported by Arts Council England.

Opened in 2007, **Rivington Place** is Iniva and Autograph ABP's contemporary visual arts space and the UK's first permanent public space dedicated to culturally-diverse visual arts and photography. The building has been realised with thanks to funding from the Arts Council England Lottery Capital 2 Programme and Barclays, the Rivington Place founding Corporate Partner. Barclays £1.1m contribution is part of a much wider programme of community support.

The **Rivington Place** project also gives thanks to London Development Agency, City Fringe Partnership, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Hackney Council and The City Bridge Trust for their support as well as The Foyle Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation. Thanks also to Brodksy Centre and Clifford Chance for their in-kind support. ([www.rivingtonplace.org](http://www.rivingtonplace.org))

### **About The Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers):**

The RGS-IBG is the learned society and professional body for geography. Formed in 1830, their Royal Charter of 1859 is for 'the advancement of geographical science'. Today, they deliver this objective through developing, supporting and promoting geographical research, expeditions and fieldwork, education, public engagement, and geography input to policy. [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)