

Cross Section of a Revolution

Allora & Calzadilla, Broomberg & Chanarin, Liu Xiaodong,
Haroon Mirza, Rashid Rana, Wael Shawky, Santiago Sierra

30 January – 7 March 2015
52-54 Bell Street, London

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This group exhibition of Lisson Gallery artists explores global aspects of trade, trauma, religious belief systems and contested territories, via a number of intersecting political practices, across photographic, sculptural, painterly and filmic media. Beginning at the crossroads between Central and Eastern Asia, Liu Xiaodong's *Hotan Project* (2012-13) depicts Muslim locals of the Xinjiang province digging for rare jade deposits in the notorious opencast mines and devastated landscapes of one of China's most remote and politically tense regions. Painting from life over a period of two months spent with the jade miners, Liu's "dirtily realistic" (according to curator Hou Hanru) monumental canvas, *East*, one of a quartet, captures the disenfranchised Uygur people eking out their living through transactions of precious stones with the ruling Han Chinese. Further along the Silk Road, across the border into Pakistan, is where Rashid Rana's *Red Carpet* (2008) originates, although his transliteration of a traditional, mystical and ritualistic Persian rug is disconcertingly woven out of a digital micro-mosaic of gory images of bloodied goats, culled at abattoirs in Lahore.

Sacred and profane meet to devastating effect in Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin's installation, *Divine Violence* (2013), an entire set of 57 framed works containing their modified King James Bible – its holy texts interspersed and overlaid with photographs from the Archive of Modern Conflict, a container for historic and contemporary images of war, human suffering and anonymous terror. After discovering Bertolt Brecht's own, heavily annotated bible, Broomberg & Chanarin underlined salient passages in each chapter, somehow colluding with their collaged finds to relay the messages of God as those of some terrible, omnipotent governor.

Further catastrophe and retribution is meted out in Allora and Calzadilla's 20-minute film, *The Bell, the Digger, and the Tropical Pharmacy* (2013), which shows the demolition of an industrial building by a digger, armed with a cast-iron bell rather than a wrecking ball. The spectacular demise of the controversial GlaxoSmithKline drugs plant in Cidra, Puerto Rico – which was closed after a contamination incident highlighted by a whistle-blower – is both seen and heard as the church bell smashes through interior walls, leaving a resonant score in the wake of its destructive force.

The titular work, *Cross Section of a Revolution* (2011) is Haroon Mirza's cultural remixing of two very distinct Islamic populations. The first, on the East coast of Africa in Kenya, is depicted by a number of men drumming during a Muslim wedding ceremony, the percussive backdrop over three monitors being both ritualistic and looped to create a complex rhythm. Another video displays footage of a student in a speech competition in Lahore, delivering a speech in Urdu – his tone recognisable as that of a persuasive, political speech. Each of these artists reveal how the cross-pollination of global cultures can result in a rewiring of faith, hope and morality.

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Notes to the editors

Allora & Calzadilla (Jennifer Allora, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1974; Guillermo Calzadilla, born in 1971 in Havana, Cuba) recently opened *Intervals*, their largest-ever US solo exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum and The Fabric Workshop and Museum (12 December-5 April 2015).

Broomberg & Chanarin (Adam Broomberg, born 1970, Johannesburg, South Africa; Oliver Chanarin born 1971, London, UK) are included in Tate Modern's current show, 'Time, Conflict, Photography' (26 November-15 March 2015), and the Shanghai Biennale, curated by Anselm Franke (23 November-31 March 2015).

Liu Xiaodong was included in the last Gwanju Biennale and his solo show 'Childhood Friends Getting Fat – Moving Images by Liu Xiaodong 1984-2014' was at the Minsheng Museum in 2014.

Haroon Mirza has been awarded the 2014 Nam June Paik award and will have institutional shows in Seoul, Basel and São Paulo this year.

Rashid Rana included his major work, *A Room from Tate Modern*, in the inaugural group show 'On Site', at the New York University's new Abu Dhabi Campus (1 November-17 January 2015).

Wael Shawky is showing the entire *Cabaret Crusades* trilogy at MoMA PSI (15 January-30 June 2015) after it was seen at K20 Kunstsammlung in Düsseldorf.

Santiago Sierra has a solo exhibition of new work opening at Labor Gallery in Mexico City this month.

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About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, it pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Sol LeWitt and Richard Long, as well as those of significant British sculptors from Anish Kapoor and Tony Cragg to a younger generation, led by Ryan Gander and Haroon Mirza. In addition to its two exhibition spaces in London, one in Milan and a fourth gallery to open under the High Line in New York in 2015, the *Lisson Presents* programme also extends a legacy of curatorial innovation beyond the galleries, working with institutions and artists to present new initiatives around the world.

Exhibition Facts

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

Location: 52-54 Bell Street, London, NW1 5DA

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Website: <http://www.lissongallery.com>

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