

## **EXHIBITION: *Speaking to Maps***

**Until 8 December**

### **Portchester Castle**

Church Ln, Portchester, Fareham PO16 9QW

Open Saturdays & Sundays 10am - 4pm

*Speaking to Maps* presents new artwork created by students from Priory School and Portsmouth Grammar School working with artists Eva Jonas and Maya Brasington.

Together the artists and students have been exploring the complex and entangled history of Caribbean prisoners of war that were held at Portchester Castle during the late 18th century.

The exhibition is presented as an installation within the castle. Two wooden structures hold the students' work on layered fabric. The layers frame the images below, allowing visitors to peer through webs of creative processes in light, shadow, rubbings and traces that echo the uncovering and rediscovery of remnants of the past. A third wooden structure presents mapping undertaken by students creating a collaborative map that emphasises the sensorial method of 'feeling out' and encountering a space steeped in colonial history.

Using fragments of findings and loosely basing their placement on the geography of the site itself, the students' work reflects upon 'traditional', western notions of cartography, instead presenting ideas of history as ever evolving, acknowledging gaps that remain unseen, untold, and lost.

Eva and Maya say:

*We invited students to bring a thoughtful approach by considering how lived experiences inform historical understanding. We wove this awareness into our 'creative gathering processes', making and recording traces of hidden, sensitive and untold histories held within heritage sites.*

*We recognised that inviting students to respond to the castle with its sensitive history should be held with consideration of the ethics of creatively engaging with history through photography.*

Professor Kate Astbury, whose research team has uncovered the history of the Caribbean men, women and children brought to the castle as prisoners of war, said: *I'm so pleased that we're able to showcase the work that Eva and Maya did in the two schools as an exhibition – the students got so much out of the project and their work will hopefully inspire others to look at the site with fresh eyes.*

Juliette Buss, Head of Learning & Engagement at Photoworks, who led the programme delivery says: *This is an important project that has brought together artists, Historians and History and Photography teachers in school to demonstrate the power of photography to tackle complex subjects with young people in sensitive and creative ways.*

**Part of *Freedom & Photography*, a partnership between Photoworks, English Heritage and the University of Warwick funded by the British Academy, the University of Warwick and English Heritage.**

The exhibition and workshops are part of Being Human Festival, the UK's national festival of the humanities, taking place 7–16 November 2024. Being Human is led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, with generous support from Research England, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy. For further information please see [beinghumanfestival.org](https://beinghumanfestival.org)

## **EVENTS**

### **WORKSHOPS: Family Friendly Photography at Portchester Castle**

#### **Saturday 16 November**

Join artists Eva Louisa Jonas and Maya Brasington for a unique photography workshop for children and families.

Explore Portchester Castle's grounds while learning about the history of Black prisoners of war once held within its walls. The session begins with an engaging introduction from historians who will share insights into this powerful story. Following the talk, you'll take

part in simple and creative photography activities, using your smartphone to capture traces of the past in thoughtful and artistic ways.

Book [here](#).

### **About Photoworks**

Photoworks champions photography for everyone. We are an international platform, global in reach, and have provided opportunities for artists and audiences since 1995. We do not have a physical venue, but our online channels are always open. Our programme brings new experiences to audiences and open up new ways to encounter photography.

Photoworks is a registered charity and the only organisation with a national remit for photography in England. Our work is supported by public funding through Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

[photoworks.org.uk](http://photoworks.org.uk)

### **About English Heritage**

English Heritage cares for over 400 historic buildings, monuments and sites – from world-famous prehistoric sites to grand medieval castles, from Roman forts on the edge of the empire to a Cold War bunker. Through these, we bring the story of England to life for over 10 million people each year.

[english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)

### **About The University of Warwick**

The University of Warwick is one of the UK's leading universities with over twenty-eight thousand students from 147 countries. Ranked 9th in the UK by The Guardian University Guide, it has an acknowledged reputation for excellence in research and teaching, for innovation, and for links with business and industry.

The recent Research Excellence Framework classed 92% of its research as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. The University of Warwick was awarded University of the Year for Teaching Quality by The Times and Sunday Times.

### **About the Being Human Festival**

Each November, the *Being Human* Festival presents hundreds of free events across the UK and beyond. Festival events aim to celebrate and demonstrate the ways in which the humanities inspire and enrich our everyday lives, help us to understand ourselves, our relationships with others, and the challenges we face in a changing world.

Each year the festival invites researchers at universities and other research organisations to collaborate with local community and cultural partners to create exciting and engaging events and projects for all to enjoy.

[beinghumanfestival.org](http://beinghumanfestival.org)