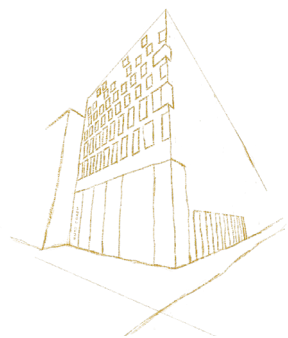




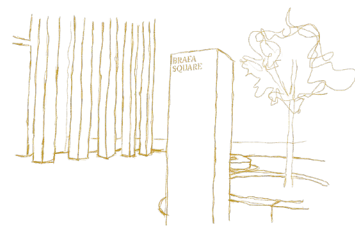
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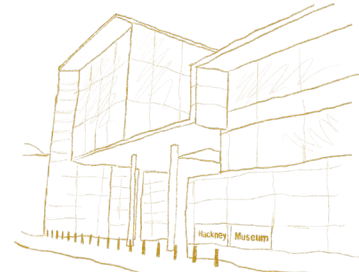
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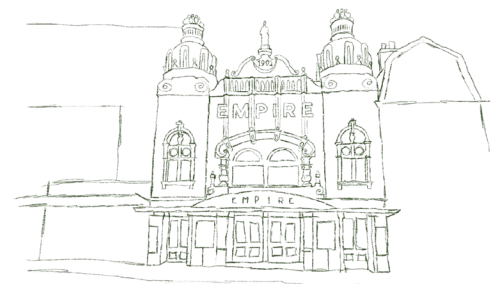
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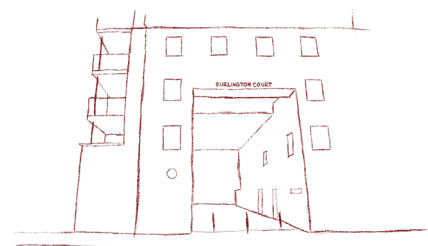
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6a



6b



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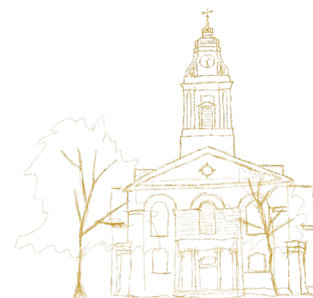
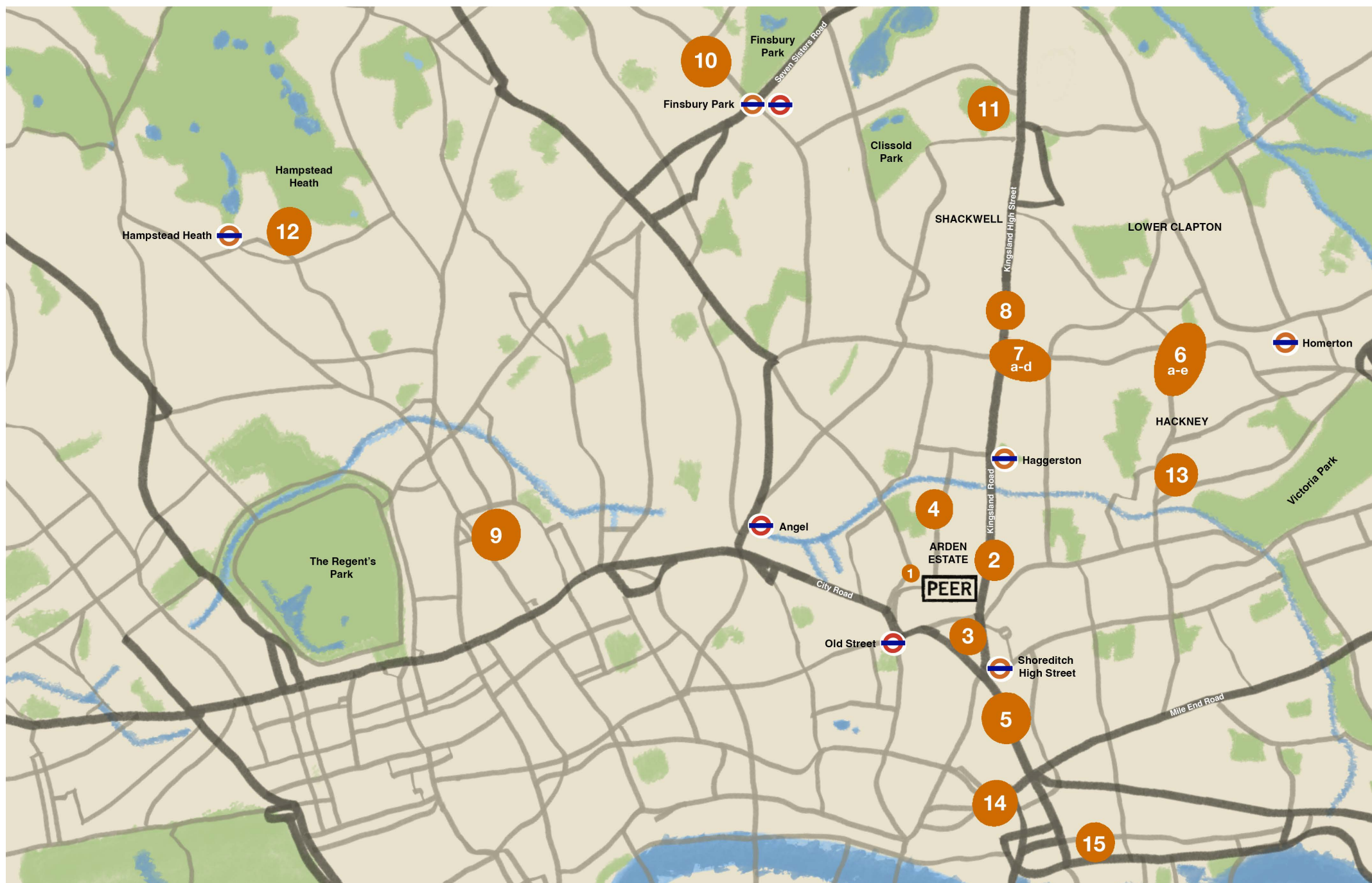
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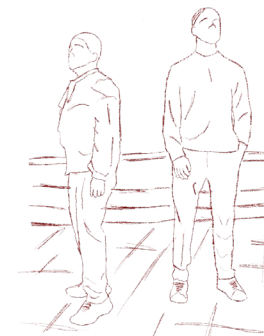
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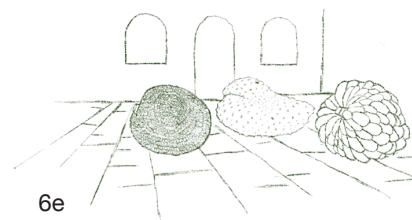
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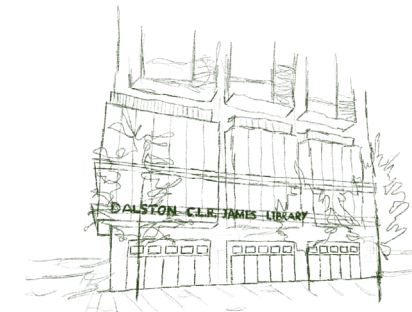
6c



6d



6e



7a

1. Peer | 97-99 Hoxton Street, London N1 6QL

Onyeka Igwe's solo exhibition *history is a living weapon in yr hand* is held at Peer, a not-for-profit, free-to-access space for contemporary art in Hoxton, East London. Peer place artists, young people and local communities at the heart of their internationally recognised programmes of exhibitions, commissions, talks, events and workshops.

2. Museum of the Home | 136 Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA

The Museum of the Home, formerly the Geffrye Museum, is located in former 18th-century almshouses in Hoxton. Located outside the museum is a statue of Robert Geffrye, an English merchant who helped fund the original almshouses and partly built his wealth through investments in transatlantic slavery. Recent controversy surrounding the statue has led the museum to examine its own connections to the legacies of colonialism. The museum commissioned Michael McMillan's film *Waiting for Myself to Appear*. The film explores Caribbean migrant history, emotions, identities and gender in Shoreditch, Hoxton and Haggerston whilst reflecting on the history of the museum's establishment.

3. Autograph | Rivington Place, London EC2A 3BA

Autograph champions artists who use photography and film to explore race, representation, human rights and social justice. It values, cares for, and amplifies the diverse stories of marginalised people, offering a platform where their narratives are presented, published, discussed and shared.

4. BRAFA Square | Pitfield Street, London N1

BRAFA Square, newly named in 2021 to commemorate the British Reggae Artists Famine Appeal (BRAFA), memorialises the group's efforts in the mid-1980s to raise thousands for Ethiopian famine relief through the charity song *Let's Make Africa Green Again* and a concert in Shoreditch Park. Stories and photographs displayed on information boards in the plaza are a lasting reminder of BRAFA's significant history.

5. Café Caribbean | Old Spitalfields Market, London E1 6EW

Café Caribbean was started in 1993 from a small outlet in Covent Garden by Warren Richards, an ex-professional boxer. Warren took the culinary path to bring the traditional dishes of Spanish Town, St Catherine, Jamaica, to London. Now based in Old Spitalfield Market, Café Caribbean is twenty minutes walk from Peer. Recommended dishes: Jerk Chicken and Fried Yellow Plantains.

6a. Hackney Museum | 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ

Hackney Museum collections shed light on the borough's diverse range of residents from the earliest anglo-saxon settlers to the present. Hackney has been the home of carnival groups since the 1970s when Caribbean communities settled in the borough. The museum's *Making Carnival* exhibition explores fifty years of carnival history through costumes, photos, and videos. The museum website also offers online resources on African and Caribbean history whilst showcasing the diverse culture of London's East End.

6b. Hackney Empire | 291 Mare Street, London E8 1EJ

The Hackney Empire, established in 1901, became a notable music hall in early 20th-century London. Belle Davis, believed to be the first black woman to record, performed here. Her performance was a pioneering moment within the British art scene at the time.

6c. Hackney Church (St John at Hackney) | Lower Clapton Road, London E8 1GY

Hackney Church holds invaluable archival records relating to black British histories in the borough. For example, the baptismal records from 1709–1829 show that before the abolition of slavery in Britain in 1833, many black women were only baptised by the church after reaching adulthood; shedding a clear light on living conditions in the borough in Georgian London.

6d. Warm Shores | Wilton Way, London E8 1EJ

In 2022, on National Windrush Day, Hackney Council unveiled this permanent public artwork, *Warm Shores* by artist Thomas J Price in Town Hall Square. Price's larger-than-life figures are based on digital 3D images of over thirty Hackney residents with a personal connection to Windrush. The work was commissioned by the council, in partnership with Create London, with the intention to demonstrate a commitment to supporting the Windrush generation through honouring the borough's Windrush community.

6e. Hackney Windrush Commission by artist Veronica Ryan | London E8 1HR

This sculpture by Veronica Ryan, *Custard Apple (Annonaceae), Breadfruit (Moraceae), and Soursop (Annonaceae)*, 2021, depicts three fruits drawn from the artists' memories of shopping with her mother on Ridley Road market as a child. It is the first permanent monument by a black female artist in the UK. Ryan says, "People are, rightly, questioning how things have been commemorated and the relevance of certain monuments. Part of addressing that is by having different kinds of work in public spaces."

7a. Dalston CLR James Library | Dalston Square, London E8 3BQ

As Stuart Hall has stated, "major intellectual and political figures [are] not honoured by simple celebration," but rather "by taking his or her ideas seriously and debating them, extending them, quarrelling with them and making them live again." The CLR James Library, named after the renowned Trinidadian author and historian CLR James, honours this thinker. In Onyeka Igwe's film *A Radical Duet*, one of the characters is based on CLR James, further highlighting his enduring influence. Visitors can also explore the library's CLR James Archives by appointment, which house collections of audio-visual and printed material.

7b. Hackney Peace Carnival Mural | Dalston Lane, London E8 3DF

The Hackney Peace Carnival Mural—designed by Ray Walker after the 1983 Hackney Peace Carnival—celebrates Hackney's cultural diversity and was intended as a symbol of harmony at a time when Cold War ban-the-bomb marches were common. The mural vividly portrays marches against nuclear weapons and represents transnational anti-colonial movements, linking to themes explored in Onyeka Igwe's film, *A Radical Duet*.

7c. Hackney CVS | The Adiaha Antigha Centre, 24–30 Dalston Lane, London E8 3AZ

Hackney CVS is a not-for-profit local infrastructure organisation focused on addressing health and social inequalities in Hackney by fostering partnerships and acting as a bridge between the community and public bodies. Their ongoing work includes embedding anti-racist commissioning principles across the organisation, the project 'Female Hackney', and supporting refugees and migrants in the area.

7d. Previous Site of The Four Aces Night Club | 12 Dalston Lane, London E8

The Four Aces Club was established by Newton Dunbar and open from 1966–1997. The venue played a pivotal role in the black British music scene, particularly in the genres of reggae, ska, and later jungle and drum & bass. The venue was demolished in 2007, and its history was chronicled in the 2008 documentary, *Legacy in the Dust: The Four Aces Story*, directed by Winstan Winter.

8. Previous Site of Centerprise Bookshop | 136–138 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2NS

Centerprise, a community bookshop and café on Kingsland Road from 1971–2011, was founded by Margaret Gosley and Glenn Thompson to support Hackney's working-class communities. It provided services including childcare, literacy, housing rights, and organising space for radical groups, with a focus on working-class history, black rights and feminism. It closed after losing an appeal against council rent hikes.

9. George Padmore Nubian Jak Community Trust Plaque | 22 Cranleigh Street, London NW1 1PH

George Padmore was a key Pan-Africanist leader. He founded the Pan-African Federation and co-organised the Fifth Pan-African Congress in 1945. Padmore's home became an important meeting place for anti-colonial activists in London during the 1940s and 50s. It served as a hub for political discussions, bringing together influential figures in the fight for African independence and global decolonisation.

10. New Beacon Books | 76 Stroud Green Road, London N4 3EN

Founded in 1966 by John La Rose and Sarah White, New Beacon Books was the UK's first specialist bookshop and publisher for black literature, Caribbean thought, and African diasporic history. The bookshop has been at the center of many political and social projects and campaigns including Caribbean Artists Movement (1966–1972), The International Book Fair of Radial Black and Third World Books (1982–1995). For decades, New Beacon Books has offered a space for the promotion of black voices in literature, education and activism.

11. Abney Park Cemetery | 219 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 0LH

Many notable abolitionists are interred here, including Joseph Sturge (1793–1859), the founder of the Anti-Slavery Society; Josiah Conder, author of *The Last Night of Slavery*, 1834; and Amelia Opie, the first woman to sign the Women's Anti-Slavery Petition. These prominent historical figures witnessed pivotal developments of the abolitionist movement and serve as reminders of the legacy of their struggle for freedom and equality.

12. Claudia Jones Nubian Jak Community Trust Plaque | 58 Lisburne Road, London NW3 2NR

This blue plaque honours the legacy of Claudia Jones. She was a political activist, feminist and black nationalist, who founded the Notting Hill Carnival. From this residence, she also founded the West Indian Gazette, a newspaper focusing on discrimination against London's Caribbean community. Her work served as a vital platform for highlighting racial injustices and promoting Caribbean culture.

13. The Ayah's Home Blue Plaque | 22 King Edward's Road, London E9 7SF

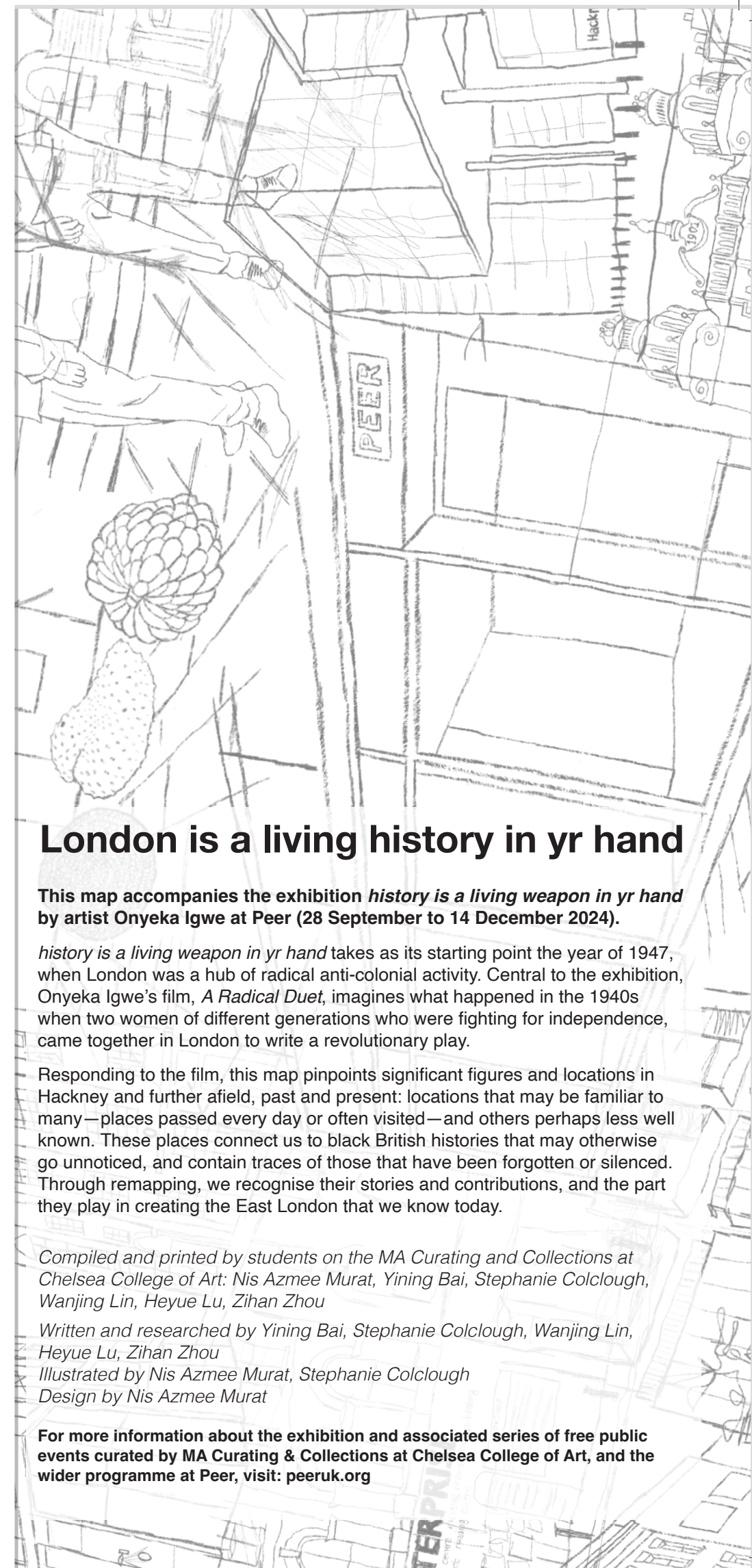
The Ayah's Home, based here from 1900–1921, provided shelter for Indian ayahs and Chinese amahs (nannies) who worked as 'travelling nurses' for British colonial families during sea-crossings back to Britain. Once in London, they were often abandoned or forced into communal lodgings. The Ayah's Home served as a critical support system. Marking its heritage today highlights its role in countering colonial, racial and gendered exploitation.

14. Phillis Wheatley Nubian Jak Community Trust Plaque | 9 Aldgate High Street, London EC3N 1AH

Phillis Wheatley Peters, born in West Africa and enslaved aged seven, became the first African-American to publish a poetry book in 1773, in London, with the support of the Wheatley family. The collection was titled *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*. It faced scepticism due to Wheatley's status as an enslaved African woman. Wheatley's plaque offers a lasting tribute to her role in breaking barriers for future generations of black writers, particularly women.

15. Kathleen Wrasama Nubian Jak Community Trust Plaque | 88 Cable Street, London E1 8GU

Ethiopian-born Kathleen Wrasama, a key UK community organiser, co-founded the Stepney Coloured People's Association in 1951. The committee would meet at 84 Cable Street (now Burlington Court). Her work was fundamental in shaping modern social services, improving education, housing and support for people of colour, while also raising awareness about racial inequalities through her personal experiences of discrimination.



London is a living history in yr hand

This map accompanies the exhibition *history is a living weapon in yr hand* by artist Onyeka Igwe at Peer (28 September to 14 December 2024).

history is a living weapon in yr hand takes as its starting point the year of 1947, when London was a hub of radical anti-colonial activity. Central to the exhibition, Onyeka Igwe's film, *A Radical Duet*, imagines what happened in the 1940s when two women of different generations who were fighting for independence, came together in London to write a revolutionary play.

Responding to the film, this map pinpoints significant figures and locations in Hackney and further afield, past and present: locations that may be familiar to many—places passed every day or often visited—and others perhaps less well known. These places connect us to black British histories that may otherwise go unnoticed, and contain traces of those that have been forgotten or silenced. Through remapping, we recognise their stories and contributions, and the part they play in creating the East London that we know today.

Compiled and printed by students on the MA Curating and Collections at Chelsea College of Art: Nis Azmee Murat, Yining Bai, Stephanie Colclough, Wanjing Lin, Heyue Lu, Zihan Zhou

Written and researched by Yining Bai, Stephanie Colclough, Wanjing Lin, Heyue Lu, Zihan Zhou

Illustrated by Nis Azmee Murat, Stephanie Colclough

Design by Nis Azmee Murat

For more information about the exhibition and associated series of free public events curated by MA Curating & Collections at Chelsea College of Art, and the wider programme at Peer, visit: peeruk.org