

## **Rehana Zaman** **Speaking Nearby**

Sat 10 February — Sun 25 March 2018

Tue-Sat: 11am-6pm // Sun: 12noon-6pm // Free

Working largely with moving image, Rehana Zaman's work speaks to the ways in which social expectations and identities are produced and performed. Often humorous in her use of tropes from cinema and television, from forms of documentary to the soap opera, her works are generated through careful collaboration and discussion with groups and individuals. The resulting films take up the entanglement of personal experience and social life where intimacy is framed against the hostility of state legislation, surveillance and control.

**Tell me the story Of all of these things** (CCA3) attends to the strategies of social conditioning that affect how we analyse bodies, identities and relationships. It brings together a staged cooking demonstration, a nebulous animated body, screenshots from Prevent's e-learning website (the UK government's 'anti-radicalisation' programme) and an intimate, candid interview with the artist's sister Farah. As Farah relates the roles she has performed throughout her life - as mother, wife, house/worker, single woman, and skier - the narrative is interposed by a swaying and amorphous simulation of a female figure. Moving through a pixelated camouflage background the figure executes a series of banal and embodied movements – speaking on the phone, dancing and walking with a particular set of purposes. Exploring the social structures and performances of identity in modern society, the film presents lived experience as constituted by processes of disassembly.

**Lourdes** (CCA2) is a new work developed from a residency in Tepito, Mexico, centring upon a discussion with a market trader called Lourdes. Interviewed about her experience of running the stall and the politics of the barrio, Lourdes' dry and humorous responses elucidate her influence and situation as a woman in the marketplace and within wider society, describing the strategies the female community use in their attempts to destabilise power. In her discussion of *Albures*, a form of double entendre laden speech specific to Mexico, a non-oppositional form of resistance posited around vulgarity and pleasure is traced.

**Some Women, Other Women and all the Bittermen** (CCA3) is a six part soap opera set in the Tetley Brewery, which incorporates footage from meetings of Justice for

Domestic Workers Leeds, who began to organise in response to changes to UK immigration law in 2014. An amalgamation of fact and fiction, the soap opera script and the urgencies of the J4DW group sees Zaman unsettle notions of working class identity through the intersecting frames of gender, class and race.

**Citations**, described by Zaman, is a “shared selection of texts, prints, films and archive ephemera that frame and extend the conversations initiated by the videos in Speaking Nearby. These materials are drawn from research readings, such as Dictee, by Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, and conversations with inspiring artists and collectives such as Rita Keegan, Zainabu Irene Davis and Leeds Animation Workshop. With this room I hoped to point towards the rich lineage of feminist or womanist work that precedes and runs parallel to my own practice - works that present a diversity of perspectives, linguistic styles and cultural tongues rooted in anti capitalist, anti racist and abolitionist thought. Critical to my own political thought and activism over the past 18 months has been my engagement with the Women of Colour Index (WOCI), as part of the WOCI Reading Group with artists Michelle Williams Gamaker and Samia Malik. WOCI is a unique collection of slides and papers collated by artist Rita Keegan that chart the emergence of Women of Colour artists during the ‘critical decades’ of the 1980s and 1990s. Selections from the Index chosen by Michelle and Samia are presented here alongside works by Rita and a publication relating to the collection by X Marks the Spot.”

## **Events**

Sun 18 February, 12noon-2.30pm: Voice of Domestic Workers: Strategies of Resistance with Marissa Begonia

Sun 18 February, 3pm-4.30pm: Mixtape with Rehana Zaman and Aditi Jaganathan

Sat 10 March, 11am-4pm: Shama Khanna and Rehana Zaman Working Group

All events are free but places limited. Visit [cca-glasgow.com](http://cca-glasgow.com) for more info.

As part of this exhibition, we would invite you to consider donating to The Voice of Domestic Workers. The CCA invigilators and box office staff will collect donations. The Voice of Domestic Workers is an education and campaigning group calling for justice and rights for Britain's sixteen thousand migrant domestic workers. They provide educational and community activities for domestic workers - including English language lessons, drama and art classes, and employment advice, and mount rescues for domestic workers stuck with abusive employers. Their work seeks to end discrimination and protect migrant domestic workers living in the UK by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare and legal advice.

[www.thevoiceofdomesticworkers.com](http://www.thevoiceofdomesticworkers.com)

