

Gabriele Uboldi's

LONDON/LONDRA Londain 倫敦
Londres ロンドン **Londyn** 伦敦 **London**



UNDONE
THEATRE

21-22

January

2023

A project on queer history and migration in London

For Mario Mieli.

I wouldn't have moved away from Italy to London had I not been queer. This simple realisation led me to create a series of audio walks in which I interwove the story of my queer migration with that of Mario Mieli's, arguably Italy's most influential queer theorist and activist. My discovery of Mario's presence amongst the ranks of the 1970s London Gay Liberation Front allowed me to understand London's rich queer history as my own and feel more at home in this queer city. Through archival research and city walks I began searching for the traces of queer migrants who'd been here before, turning London's urban landscapes into portals to queer histories.

Since completing this first version of the project, LONDON/LONDRA has become so much more than what I'd originally set it out to be. Today, this project is a provocation to reimagine urban life and the politics of space in today's London, where the hostile environment, gentrification, and landlordism make life unbearable and unaffordable for most. It's an invitation to expand notions of the 'local' beyond nationalistic and exclusionary definitions. It's an opportunity to craft a new sense of belonging through community-building and story-telling, centring those who are usually left at the margins.

These concerns were at the core of the weekend of 21-22 January 2023, where I curated events exploring the queerness/migration/urbanism intersection. Cameron Carrington's architecture workshop invited participants to queer London landmarks, while mother tongues' translation party used archival material to explore new approaches to history and towards queer futures. Dan de la Motte emphasised exchanges between migrant and queer cultures in England by highlighting the multiple languages mixed in Polari, gay men's secret language before the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967. Finally, GLF veterans Stuart Feather and Julian Hows shared their memories of meeting Mario Mieli in the early 1970s.

LONDON/LONDRA is rooted in the belief that marginalised experiences such as those with queer, migrant, and other intersectional identities can shine a new light on the ideologies built into urban landscapes, pointing towards ways of queering the city. This intersection between queerness and migration is not intended as a further fragmentation of identity, but rather as a strategic alliance predicated on shared otherness.

The ultimate goal of the weekend was to create an opportunity for queer migrants to reflect, be seen, and take up space—for this reason, the final event was an open mic for queer migrants to share their creative work. I am delighted to introduce the work of these ten extraordinary artists, which can be found in this zine. I was struck by how unique each individual work is and how, across different media, these artists express original viewpoints to explore identity in London. It gives me hope that, despite the crisis that queer migrants are living through in today's Britain, our creative work can confidently point to ways in which, from the margins, we can work together towards a different future.

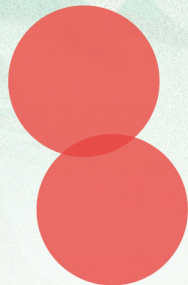
Gabriele Uboldi

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oooooo

ool

Goo

In the place

**where we left and Xiaolin Zhang
arrived**

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Peace in Chaos is an exploration of chaos as a muse and inspiration. Growing up, I used to need complete control over my life, which often

Peace in Chaos

translated into restricting my creativity to only the things I knew. But the real inspiration comes from chance and mystery. The fragmented dress is also a metaphor for exploring and mending my identity together, nurturing it, and bringing peace to how I feel about myself.

**Izabela Weronika
Mrzyglod**

**@izwerzja
@knit.do.kitu**

Wu Gui

Xiaoyu1002
@xiaoyu1002_

Wu Gui is a moving image work that explores identity and teases apart the confines of the gender binary. Gui, translated as a turtle in Mandarin, is redefined as identity. is not imal nor man be- an absurd alienated symbol. Wu Gui their re- cret- slowly, with inti-

Wu rin, an Wu Gui an an- a hu- ing but subject, from the ic world. performs volt se- ly, moving softly, and macy.

Hide

tiger in a

bell jar

poet

the

jules

@poetthejules

if you
are looking
for signs of

latent

HOMOSEXUALITY
HOMOSEXUALITY

you need to be
cautious of
individuals
with mul-
lets
patterned shirts

there's an

unexpected item
in the bagging
area and it's

your **OPINION**
about who
deserves to have

basic
and **HUMAN RIGHTS**
attainable
medical **CARE**

suddenly everyone
seems to be
NON-BINARY and
bisexual what
happened to

normal **GAYS GAYS GAYS**

My piece is about a man who is such a football fan that he falls in love with his team and serenades it in a love song. The act is an exploration of masculinity in the context of my cultural upbringing, having an Argentinian father. Argentinians are deeply passionate people – you can hear it in their music – particularly about football. I lip-sync to a bolero – a ballad – called ‘Perfidia’, meaning treachery. It relates to the betrayal you feel when your football team loses, versus elation when they win a championship, which I express through an orgasm at the winning goal.

The focus is on football and passion and orgasm.



Gooooo
ooooo
ool
Goo
@goo_drag



Don't ask me where I come from.

Diaspora / Home / Belongingness
the place where we left and arrived

a film by
Samuel Zhang

**In the
place
where we
left and
arrived**

**Xiaolin Zhang
@samuel.zzc**

What is your favourite thing about where you're from?

The intensity of the human relationships

The furthest I would go to truly belong somewhere is...

NOT EXACTLY interesting but I have done 12-18 years of studying in this country, studying and working and just staying. The next thing is Global Talent that deal in the realm of the here today.

What is your favourite household appliance?

It's tricky, a part of me wants to say the blender, but I've got to go with the dishwasher because I have doing dishes.

How does it feel to fall in love?

The scariest but most exciting feeling that is so unique to the human experience. The shift from stranger to partner, a sharing of minds, humanity and bodies. Regarding pain of the inevitable end, however that may be.

Describe the feeling of pure fear.

at night. I had a dream that my mum died and all night I was getting her details. I felt like each was a whole hole where ~~some~~ all my questions fell into, and the future was like, this big, huge gaping ~~annoy~~ ~~to~~ fall into.

My favourite place in London is...

MY BEST FRIEND'S SHARED APARTMENT

because...

IT FEELS MORE LIKE HOME THAN EVEN HOME DOES. I FEEL WELCOME AND LOVED.

[Globally]

Talented

Amanda Grace

@astuteankind

I need eight volunteers to write for two minutes. You can start right away. I'll time. Ready?

(AMANDA starts a timer.)

For those of us who were not eligible for the EU settlement scheme, who come seeking refuge from state-sanctioned cults,

whose partners righteously refuse the possessive contract of matrimony— even ironically in the face of The Man—

there is only one option: the Global Talent visa.

And you're going to help me get one, by co-creating a universally relevant, internationally marketable immigration story.

THIS IS A POLITICAL TACTIC.

Bright florescent lights illuminate a brutalist, white square room. Though the physical space is sparse and blank, the energy, force, and thoughts colour a rainbow in the air.

space we are in as

Define "home."

- a place to return to after work / ding out / a bad day / being v drunk and feel safe

**zeg niet
dat ik wegv-**

**luchten wil
vrees voor strijd
slechts en geweest,
maar rondom mij zovéél
rumoer,
wat moet ik
doen? mijn
bloed wil rust.**

**daar bij de
kreek zal ik
droom land**

't

zien,
alles zoeter is dan

waar
hier

RUST

en waar
geen

**Lusty Lovelace
@lustylovelace**

mij

**schrikverhaal
hind'ren zal.**

Be Careful What You Wish For

Dorothy Cheung
@dorothy_films

*In London no one could host more than three nights
therefore*

I stayed with three different men

Two of them straight (one almost harassed me)

And the other was a drag queen

Who took me to a party

(And lent me a black tight lace top that

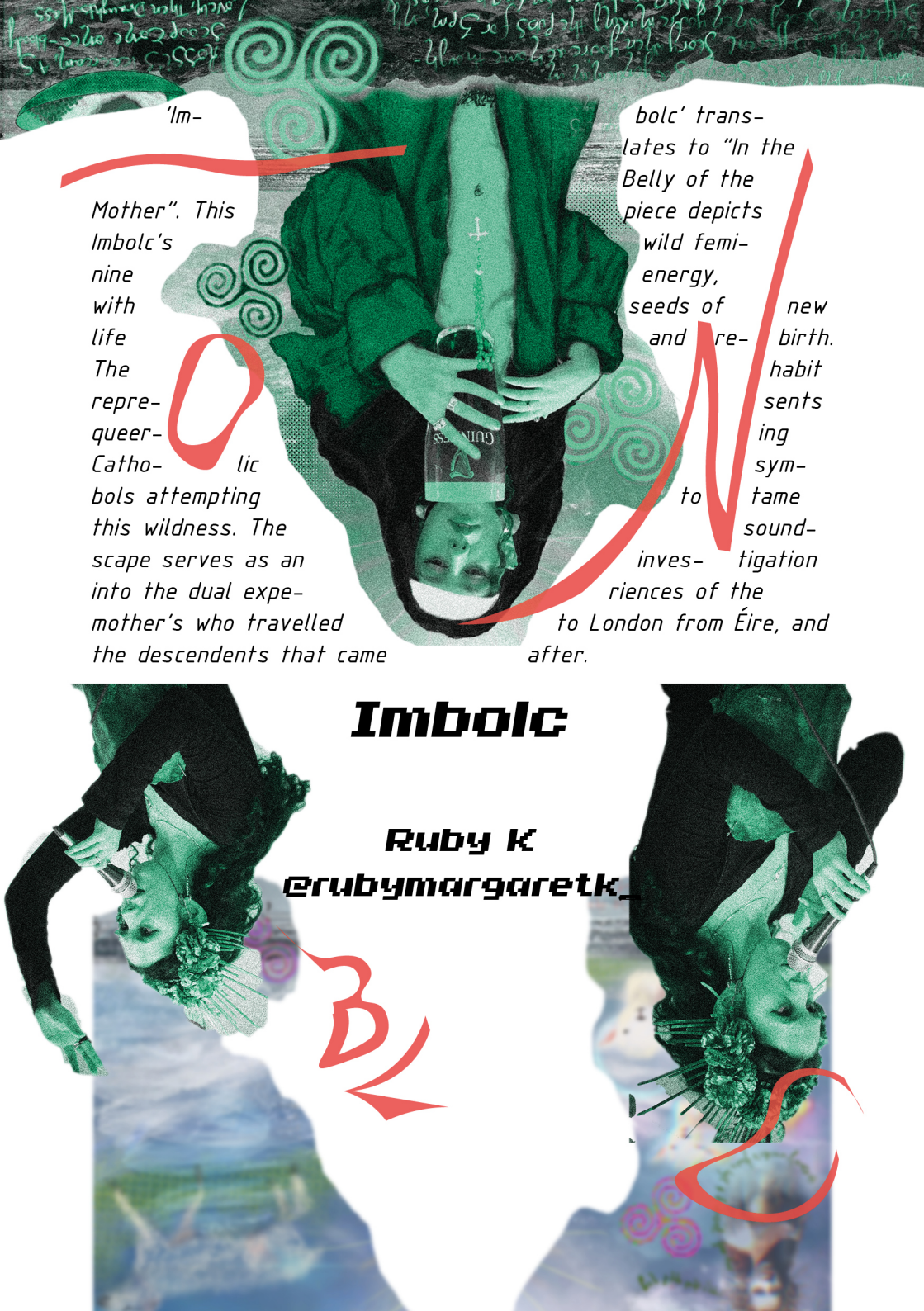
I would never wear in my life again)

Somehow, I wished to move here someday

I only remember this when I began packing

~~I shall leave
I shall leave
I shall leave
I shall leave
I shall leave~~

We shall leave



'Im-

Mother". This Imbolc's nine with life The repre- queer- Catho- lic bols attempting this wildness. The scape serves as an into the dual expe- mother's who travelled the descendents that came

bolc' trans- lates to "In the Belly of the piece depicts wild femi- energy, seeds of and re- new birth. habit sents ing sym- tame sound- inves- tigation riences of the to London from Éire, and after.

Imbolc

Ruby K

@rubymargaretk



Bus Stop S, Poynders Road/ Clarence Ave- nue

**Eduardo Arcelus
@eduardoarcelus**

*I let go of
your hand im-
mediately.*

*He darts past the bus
stop on his bike.*

*His words float like
puffs of industrial
smoke, infecting the air.*

*I feel ashamed. Ter-
rified. But most-
ly, I feel violent.*

*I promised myself all
those years ago if
this ever happened to
me again, I'd react.*

*So I do. I run after
that bike. I run as fast
as 35 can and I scream
at the top of my lungs.*



L O N D O N / L O N D R A

Gabriele Uboldi - Curator and Producer



21 January

Queer/Migrant Storytelling Workshop - by Gabriele Uboldi
Polari Workshop - by Dan de la Motte
Talk with 1970s Gay Liberation Front - with Stuart Feather and Julian Hows, facilitated by Gabriele Uboldi and Dan de la Motte



22 January

Trans-ing the Built Environment - by Cameron Carrington
Archival Futures Translation Party - by mother tongues
Queer/Migrant Open Mic - with xiaoyu1002, poet the jules, Goo, Xiaolin Zhang, Izabela Weronika Mrzyglod, Ruby K, Amanda Grace, Dorothy Cheung, Eduardo Arcelus, Lusty Lovelace. Hosted by Gabriele Uboldi



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ENGLAND**

QUEERCIRCLE

**UNDONE
THEATRE**

We're a small company and any donations will make a huge difference! Your donation will support core costs such as paying for our website domain, ensuring that the legacy of this weekend remains online and is not forgotten.

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