

BACK AND FORTH

A journey between two points with Jo Roberts

Introduction Erica Burton Curator

Jo Roberts' work is a celebration of the people, places and events that she encounters. She highlights the everyday and asks us to place importance and value on those commonplace experiences that relate to us all.

For her new work *Back and Forth* Roberts has connected with the private world that is the very public space of a train journey. She has observed our behaviour and her own, noticing the inherent need to be located with the outside world as we are held in this transient space somewhere between where we have been and where we are going.

Roberts has isolated this need through the use of text messaging and found that it led to the most important place of all, home*.

Roberts' works in the manner of a modern day Victorian explorer observing, recording, and collecting chance encounters and affinities between mankind.

Foreword Jo Roberts Artist

Hi there, thanks for picking this up and taking the time to read it.

I was commissioned to explore the train journey between Reading and Paddington as part of the *Between the Space* project. What happened to me on those journeys was the same as I could see was happening to many of my fellow travellers. What was important was not the constantly changing landscape outside, but the ephemeral world of mobile phones, particularly text messaging.

What is recorded here is a 'conversation' between my son Matt and me that took place on my journey into and out of London. All I ask of you is to look and read the 'conversation' that my son and I had, and to think about the connections you make with your family and friends next time you travel.

*HOME n.
the place where our friends and family are

Between the Space

Between the Space is a series of visual art interventions by UK based artists Arnaud Desjardin, Olivia Plender and Jo Roberts taking place from January to April 2007 on First Great Western trains travelling between Reading and Paddington and at their respective stations. *Between the Space* has been curated by Erica Burton.

www.betweenthespace.org.uk
www.jorobertsjourney.com

Between the Space is supported by



First Great Western

heathwallace

Between the Space is also supported by Adriana Marques and Artists in the City; Reading

Outbound conversation

My life's like a bloody soap opera, guess who turned up on my doorstep at 6.30 this morning?

09:41:08

2 b perfectly honest even ur mother wouldn't know where 2 start!! X

09:42:17

Haha was that u wouldn't know where to start because the list of possibilities is too long? I'm not sure what u take me for mother!

09:46:28

Sooo - my guess is...

09:48:31

...Drum roll please.... Go with the obvious one! Which I hope is obvious! Haha r u in London today? x

09:50:46

Natalie?

09:51:47

Haha bingo! Bit of a shock to say the least! x

09:52:14

U do realise that u r impossible! Get in2 paddington 4 10.30

09:55:16

Haha yeah I'm well aware which is why I think I find it so funny, give me a bit of detachment so I can laugh @ myself. fancy lunch or tea on sat or Sunday? x

09:57:46

Gd 4 u! yeah a meet up at w/e sounds gd. so take care, have a gd day and say hi 2 nat x

10:02:23

Ok wicked! i'll be in touch about the weekend. Have a gd few days x

10:04:26

READING

Twyford

Maidenhead

Taplow

Burnham

Slough

Ealing Broadway

PADDINGTON

Yeah I know I feel old! haha yeah shopping sounds cool. Found some good ones might be cheaper on the net tho. speak soon x

19:15:22

OMG I cant believe that u were born nearly 22 years ago! What about going shopping next time im down - ur always going on about shoes?!

19:13:41

Ha ha yeah sex on legs this one:) well let me know when ur next in town. almost time to start thinking about Christmas I guess - oh and birthdays! x

19:10:35

Just got it! Ur txt obviously got lost in the ether! cup of tea? Oh lucky u, ive still a way 2 go yet. By the by i LOVE Nathalies tights:) xx

19:07:58

Yeah I replied, I presume u didn't get it, home now, half asleep watching tv with nathalie, cup of tea, sorted:) looking forward to Christmas x

18:57:05

Yeah ditto fell asleep on the tube - walking home, wish I lived nearer the station. great diner we went too thank you:) x

18:55:42

Did u get my txt?

18:45:37

Waiting 4 train, its freezing! great 2 c u and Nat 2day - im so full after that food - hows u? x

18:35:06

Return conversation