

Thread and Word - an introduction.

The walk is part of a programme of events organised at Espacio Gallery as part of the Threads exhibition curated by the Artists' Pool. This exhibition brings together artists from varied creative practices, backgrounds, cultures and countries to explore the threads that connect us through our experiences, humanity, gender, friendship and relationship.

With this in mind I have invited all of you, artists, writers, friends, performers and walkers, to celebrate the threads that bring us together which will be reflected in the readings, interventions and performances as we walk. The route I have chosen is from the Espacio gallery to the site of Sculpture in the City where we can reflect on the achievements of the two women sculptors from different backgrounds, Amy Lucas (English) and Lizzie Sanchez (Peruvian) whose work is represented amongst the public artworks. Lizzie Sanchez's work "cadenetas" (paper chains) is particularly evocative of the sentiment guiding this walk.

The walk is also an ongoing development of the work I have been undertaking for the last eighteen months as a part of the A Journey with The Waste Land Research group at the Turner Contemporary in Margate. It brings together several strands of my art practice. Cecilia Vicuña is a Chilean female artist whose art is a recurring influence in my work. I chose her poem for this walk as it is very much in the style of a stream of consciousness which has become widely known in Latin American literature as Magical Realism and was influenced by TS Eliot's writing of The Waste Land. The words of Thread and Word also seems to be very connected with the ideas and ambitions of the exhibition at Espacio as well as my own work documenting the experience gained through walking by making knots in ropes.

It is my intention to explore further these connections through the walk and sited readings chosen by members of the walking with The Waste Land research group. I will be asking participants to use ropes to document the walking experience as recorded in my work Quipu, which has been selected for the exhibition at Espacio. More about this and my walking practice can be found on my blog: http://elspethpenfold.blogspot.co.uk/2016/10/fragments-and-thoughts-explanation-and_14.html

I look forward to collaborating with you and sharing your work as a part of this walk, celebrating the threads that bring us together. I hope that the walk will explore a common bond and provide us with new opportunities and experiences to develop our own art practices.