



Over the course of one week, I was filmed dancing by a wonderful team of friends in the locations of 40 past and present churches around Bethnal Green. The first in a series of projects celebrating aspects of Bethnal Green's rich history, I danced as a gesture of hope and possibility around the area I live.

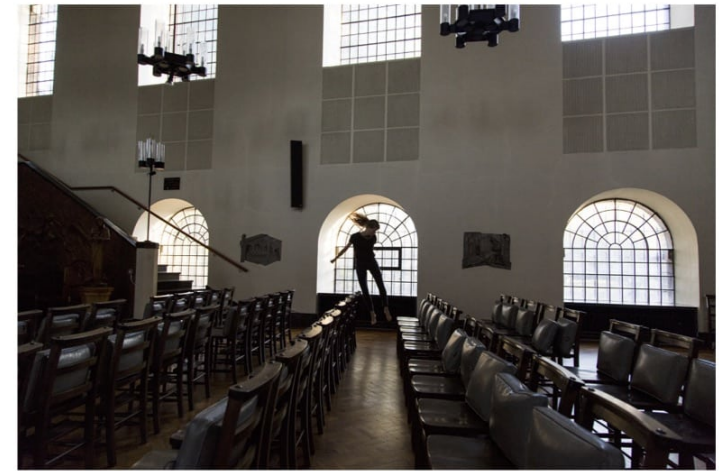
My artwork has recently been about the role of land and how human activity on it creates meaning in specific places. My art intercepts those narratives and plays with them. Bethnal Green and its neighbouring areas are places where much has happened: silk weaving, boxing, the Blitz Spirit, the Salvation Army, the world's first social housing... are among many activities that have found home in Bethnal Green and which may form the subject of future projects. For these projects I wanted to create work around beauty in the area, drawing attention to it in the past and representing it back to the community.

This first project came about when I discovered how much of Bethnal Green's land had been used as Church space in recent history. My curiosity was sparked when I realised there used to be a church that could seat a thousand opposite my flat but is nowhere to be seen. In the 1840s Bishop Blomfield commissioned the building of 10 churches across Bethnal Green as a way to engage the fast growing working population of the area with the Christian faith. This population peaked in 1900 and then declined - church attendance with it - until the 1940s when many of these buildings were bombed during the Second World War. Some were re-built but by the 1970s eight of the ten had either been completely demolished or turned into flats. Alongside these churches there were a number of Anglican and University missions buildings that hosted chapels; and there are a range of other denominational churches across Bethnal Green today. Using a series of old maps and my bicycle, I chartered the exact locations of each demolished space so that I could dance in each one.

This project involves taking what has been, then re-energising it; marking out the land through a gesture that will become concrete in history by the simple fact that it will have happened. The work draws up and together the strange history of such a vast array of space set aside in the same small area for the same activity, many of which no longer exist. It draws attention to these spaces and gives them a second life through another continuous but different activity, and one that inherently holds life: dancing.

An unseen part of the project is the number of local people that I spent time with to allow this project to happen. I wanted to honour each space both for what it had been used for, and for what it is today. This meant spending time with fascinating and brilliant people across the community, discussing and sharing ideas. Many generous people made time to let me dance in their churches, offices or houses! I hope the work might be a gift to the local community, bringing attention to these people and places; celebrating an aspect of the vibrant life of Bethnal Green.

With thanks to Katie Garner, Tom Hartley-Booth, Deborah Panes, Flurina Sokoll, Fr Kevin Scully, Kirsty Kerr, Charlotte Havill, Rowina Baxter, Carmen Cox, Jonty Herman, Jon Bilbrough, Level TV, Adam Atkinson, Michael Smythe, David Bishop, Mike Mitchell, Kaspars Parups, George Paris, Sally Yoxall, Rev Chris Newman-Day, Brian Ralph, Brother Bartholomew, Mike Houston, Fr Alan Green, Jane Dance, Juan Calle, Jenny Allsworth, Will Lunn, Kristian Kragelund, John Ryan, Fr James Westcott, Holly Warburton, Lynn Wilson, Christina Pilkington, Rev Paul Turp, Robin Hatton-Gore, Katharina Posavec, Tim May, my pals at Husk and everyone else who has advised, helped and encouraged this project.



# THINGS I LIKE IN BETHNAL GREEN : PART 1 (Dance with Me)

By Lucinda May. 6-12 March 2017  
VIEWING EVENING: 9th March 6-9pm, Oxford House



## WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

Over 1 week I danced in the locations of 40 past and present Churches around Bethnal Green. I did this as a celebration of life around the area I live. 40 1-minute films of the dancing are being shown in 4 of the locations around Bethnal Green for 1 week. Each location is showing 10 of the films. To see all the films, find all the locations!

Here is your map with the dancing and viewing locations that are open at different times during the week. There is also a list of events that all are welcome to! Ultimately, you are invited to explore the land the work is about.

## EVENTS

### VIEWING EVENING: Thurs 9th March, 6-9pm Oxford House.

There will be a short talk, dance performance, opportunity for visitors to do their own dance in Oxford House's beautiful chapel, and a chance to see all the films in one place for this night only.

### TOUR: Sat 11th March 11am starting at St Margaret's House.

Artist-led tour around all the viewing locations.

## VIEWING LOCATIONS & OPENING TIMES 6-12 MARCH

### OXFORD HOUSE

Derbyshire Street, E2 6HG

Mon-Fri 10am-10pm

Sat-Sun 10am-2pm

### MAKER WHARF

56 Warner Place, E2 7DA

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

Sat 1pm-5pm

Sun 10am-5pm

### ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

St Matthew's Row, E2 6DT

Mon-Thu 10am-5pm

Fri 10am-1pm

Sat 10am-5pm

Sun 1pm-5pm

### ST MARGARET'S HOUSE

21 Old Ford Road,

Sat-Sun 10am-5pm

