

## DORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER 2016

DORA PROJECT (2015-2016) is a cross-generational archiving, participatory and community project that combines contemporary art, WW2 London and early rocket engineering. The project is led by established artist Françoise Dupré in collaboration with Rebecca Snow, a young visual and participatory artist. For more information about the project do visit: <https://doraproject.wordpress.com/>

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This is DORA PROJECT second NEWSLETTER. A lot has happened since we reported on our pre-launch event in November 2014! We have been very busy! so much so that we've had no time to publish a newsletter! Many of you have followed our progress via our website, twitter and participated in our 2015 London events in Greenwich and New Cross. But just in case, here is the story so far! Do check DORA PROJECT Website for more details and photos.

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Following our successful Arts Council England funding application and secured funding from Dupré's University Research Centre (CFAR, Birmingham School of Art-BCU), DORA PROJECT began in Spring 2015 with a long and intense period of research and development that took Dupré to archives and museums across London, in Washington and France. During the summer, we set up the project's participatory activities and two commemorative events and a school project took place in the autumn.

We are now working toward the project's Exhibition at Peckham Platform, in London 8 April-8 May 2016 and planning some exciting events for you to attend! Already scheduled, the Public Opening, 7 April, 6-8.30pm and Last Friday, 29 April, 6-8pm.

For DORA PROJECT, Meddings Associates designed a postcard for participants to write down their memories and thoughts about the V2 attacks on London. Do visit the project's website to download a postcard or contact DORA PROJECT. Make sure you post your card back! We are collecting the postcards for DORA PROJECT Exhibition. Meddings Associates has also designed a project's badge for V2 victims to wear.

### Field Report

Between September and December 2015, Dupré and Snow visited JFS, the Jewish secondary school in North West London. The project, *Field Report* aimed to visually engage young people with the role of scientists in war and ethics in science. This was an exciting and successful project thanks to JFS's warm support and welcome. Dupré and Snow worked with Mrs. Churchill the art teacher who led a group of talented and thoughtful young group of Year 9 students. The project consisted of workshops and field visits to Imperial Museum, Science Museum, Peckham Platform and SPACE Haymerle Road studios. Students used drawing and collage to create and film a temporary collaborative wall installation. The final artwork is a short film that Snow is editing. It also includes students' thoughtful discussions about the project. The film will be part of DORA PROJECT Exhibition.



### London Commemorative Public Events

DORA PROJECT has led two Commemorative Public Events so far. A third one in Peckham is scheduled to take place during the project's exhibition. Dupré made a series of 20 display panels, storyboards that weave together through texts and images, the story of her uncle with those of Londoners, and rocket engineers. Research at Greenwich Heritage Centre, Southwark Local History Library and Archive and Lewisham Local History and Archives were extremely useful. The boards form the focus of the events, introducing participants to DORA PROJECT's content. Along side the panels, a short film by Snow is projected. *Grey Area: a map sketched in film* was made in response to the artist's 2014 visit to the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp memorial site in Germany.

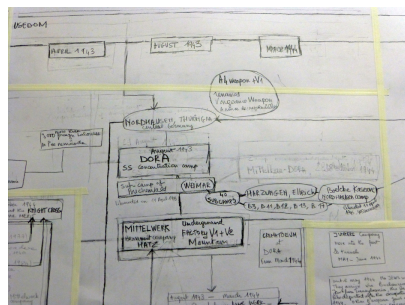
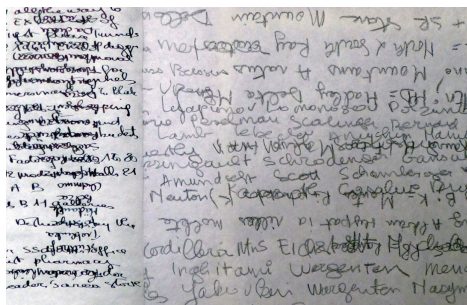
The first Commemorative Event took place on 19 September 2015 at St Alfege Parish Church Hall in Greenwich. Greenwich was the borough with the heaviest V2 hits per population in the London area. Our second event was on 25 November, at St James Hatcham, Goldsmiths, University of London. The event commemorated the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the most deadly V2 attack on London. The Museum Group, whose archives are located on the site of the V2 attack on New Cross Road, joined us with a selection of WW2 archival materials and memorabilia.

The events have been extremely successful in connecting artists, V2 survivors, and victim families as well as introducing a younger generation to important historical moments that continue to have a contemporary relevance. Participants have shared their painful memories of V2 hits and the impact they've had on their life and family. The events have been great opportunities to come together to remember and reflect upon these historical events and commemorate. The events have brought together many wonderful and generous individuals with a great knowledge and passion for their local history.



**Mapping**

Dupré is currently developing in her studio, a wall installation. Faced with the complexity of the history of the V2 that takes us across continents through time and space, Dupré had to draw, a large timeline. *Timeline* is a factual record that draws out, methodically and obsessively the connections between rocket engineering, V2 victims in London and Antwerp, slave labourers forcefully involved in V2 research and production in Nazi concentration camps and our post-WW2 world. For Dupré, the toughest part of the project is the visual translation of the story of Dora Concentration Camp and the V2 victims. Those of you who are familiar with Dupré's colorful artwork will be surprised to learn that the work being made is mostly done with graphite and lead pencils and blue black ink on semi-transparent paper. The art work is titled *Moon Atlas* and consists of layers of hand written words, fragment of technical diagrams, lists of WW2 sites of terror, textual description of concentration camp barracks, Moon craters and landing sites. *Timeline* and *Moon Atlas* will be part of DORA PROJECT Exhibition at Peckham Platform.



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