



Hidden in the Übergrowth

‘The Other beyond the urban melting pot’

But he escaped safely from the village, and trotted along the Hetman's highroad to the east, in a northerly direction. The night was dark and friendly to refugees. His mare whinnied frequently afraid of losing her foal. Mishka, grated his teeth, and stopped again and again to listen whether he could hear the heavy beat of horse-hoofs before or behind him. But a magical silence lay all around. All he could hear was the foal; taking advantage of the halt to suck at his mother, its hind-legs thrust deep into the snow.

Mikhail Sholokhov

The city has been conceptualised as a flexible and organic entity, able to grow around changes in its demography. The rural setting has been considered less often. Smaller communities often struggle to come to terms with new influences and social patterns. The culture of nature and of the rural extended family are not thought of as an issue. The city, with its polymorphology feeding many guises, has a strong presence in literature, music and visual art.

How does the alien fare in the vast spaces between the great urban conurbations?

HOLTgallery has a unique location in a UK west country market town, dominated by a 13 century abbey, built by the community. The Gallery seeks to bring a condensed, urgent, cosmopolitan art experience to a disparate rural population. For this reason the new project will allow artists unusual access to a vibrant context for work that may address the isolation of denizens or marginal individuals who cannot form groups and disappear into an anonymous urban landscape. Here the landscapes itself is a strong force and the social landscape must be the front line.

The Gallery seeks works and projects, in any form, that consider multiculturalism, ethnicity, sexual diversity, and alternatives to the family unit in a specifically rural context.

The Gallery will host an exhibition and produce a publication in February/March and will extend and develop work to promote further exhibition opportunities, workshops and texts for presentation in July 2005.

Deadline for submissions: 22 October 2004.

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