RE:ASSEMBLY
Ultra-red and
The St Marylebone Church of England School
18 – 21 April 2013

What happens when an international arts collective is placed in an inner city London school over a four-year period? The Serpentine Gallery’s Edgware Road Project presents RE:ASSEMBLY, an exhibition that provides a window onto a unique partnership between radical sound collective Ultra-red and students and staff at The St Marylebone Church of England School.

While the place of culture in the curriculum is a hot topic of debate, RE:ASSEMBLY demonstrates the important role that the arts play in schools. Rated as outstanding by Ofsted and among the country’s first 100 National Teaching Schools, The St Marylebone Church of England School has been transformed over the past twenty years. Citing the presence of the performing arts throughout its curriculum as central to its resurgence and a key driver for its achievements, the school places a high premium on arts education.

Initiated by the Serpentine Gallery’s Edgware Road Project, the residency placed Ultra-red in the heart of the school in 2008. Embedded into the curriculum, the artists worked with a diverse group of students and teachers across multiple subject areas to explore questions of citizenship and migration, and to engage young people in class and private space. During a year 9 ‘Citizenship Day’ when the school might have invited in police officers, councillors or businessmen as guest speakers, Ultra-red invited migrants’ rights organisers to be guest speakers, Ultra-red invited migrants’ rights organisers to be guest speakers.

At St Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone, a work in which religious texts are replaced with the students’ analyses of citizenship in the local area and in the school, is embedded into the fabric of the building. In the church’s crypt, Songs for Edgware Road shows five students interpreting songs through choreography, the titles of which is projected at scale. At the school’s Marylebone High Street location, Songs for Getting Through presents concrete poems worked with the lyrics and song titles that help students survive exams and daily pressure in and out of school. In Lessons, teachers’ own concerns are inscribed into six framed textiles. The Ultra-red collective states: ‘Our listening is an act of respect and caring, and it manifests a certain vision of what it might mean to see each other as citizens. While the works exhibited in RE:ASSEMBLY represent an outcome of our collaboration, they are starting points for the next phase of the investigation.’

The Ultra-red Project is supported by Bloomberg

EVENTS
Songs for Edgware Road: A choral performance
Wednesday 17 April, 6pm
St Marylebone Parish Church, 17 Marylebone Road, NW1 5LT
This opening event for RE:ASSEMBLY is a performance of choral works from the hymnal, a work written by the students in the style of the song book used at St Marylebone Parish Church.

Performance followed by reception, 7pm
The St Marylebone Church of England School, 64 Marylebone High Street, W1U 5BA

Educators Forum: What is the sound of a critical arts education today?
Saturday 20 April, 1 – 5pm
The Front Room (Room MG14) University of Westminster

Work in partnership with
The Learning Council
RE:ASSEMBLY in collaboration with
The St Marylebone Church of England School
Ultra-red
RE:ASSEMBLY: Songs for Edgware Road 2013
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