

# DRAWING DIASPORA

Project Evaluation

Charlene April Clempson



STOLEN PENS (STOLEN FROM  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS)  
(14)

Fig. 3 Clempson, CA. (2019) 'Stolen Pens (stolen from various locations)'. Felt tip on paper.

# INTRODUCTION

I used the funds to develop a body of drawings, which explores diaspora . I travelled to China for an artist residency at Red Gate gallery in Beijing. My interest in the residency was from a practice based research perspective. The aim of the residency was to explore diaspora as an everyday concept through drawing by recording the contents of suitcase. If diaspora/ or diasporic identities have commonly been theorized for Hall (2003 and 2000) and Gilroy (1991) as dealing with 'roots and routes' rather than what is to hand. Then history is still theorized as connected to the individual -to prior geographical location/ 'geographical mobility' (Blunt 2007) and social individuals could not make their own history. Through drawing and writing the artist can document their own history.

By documenting and travelling , one can change the location and value of the possessions that we have to hand.



SKETCH BOOKS (4) (INCLUDES THIS ONE)

Fig. I Clempson. CA. (2019) Sketchbooks (inside this one). Felt tip on paper

Humans negotiate different spaces that differ from home by forming connections/ creating possession through memory. I am intrigued with the objects and ideas that are transported/transportable and that drawing can document a relationship to a possession. This is a discussion of when things travel they hold/withhold ideas, which should be continually grappled with; as this is process of possession. I am interested in not only what objects that 'we travel with' but how tastes change/ objects change in response to travel. Migration is a human experience and whether we move and create home or we stay where we have been brought up – it is a negotiation of space. When we draw, we redraw the lines between what we observe and what we see to create a document of what we think we know. A document supposes who we might become.



Fig. 2 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Face Scrub (with activated Charcoal)'

## THE INITIAL PROJECT IDEA : DRAWING DIASPORA

To develop a body of drawings which explore diaspora as a practice of everyday objects which travel and are recorded (through drawing) as they travel. The work will be explored through travel to Beijing as artist in residence at Red Gate Gallery. Diaspora has been commonly discussed through the theories which are then connected to ethnicities (groupings) and they forget to emphasis the idea that humans travel. The Plan is to produce the following:

- The first piece will record the contents of a suitcase through drawing;
- The second piece will document how the objects have changed in response to being in China;

## WHAT WAS ACHIEVED ?

The work took another direction due to it being exhibited in Beijing. I found that I didn't have enough time to finish the work in the way I wanted to because I wanted to exhibit 'something'. However, on my return I realised that to exhibit the work locally spaces were asking for the work to be framed and then Covid19 effected some of the other events that were in the pipeline.

The first piece recorded the contents of a suitcase through drawing- this was achieved. Additionally, the work was exhibited in China at the Redgate Gallery in Beijing . Then some of the work was exhibited in an exhibition entitled 'In my House' in Southampton.

## RED GATE GALLERY RESIDENCY

- I produced over 100 drawings of the objects that I owned
- Some of the objects were food items – they were consumed and were never transported in the suitcase
- Some of the objects were procured by alternative means (stolen) – pencils, pens etc.
- See some of the images of work produced in the following pages :



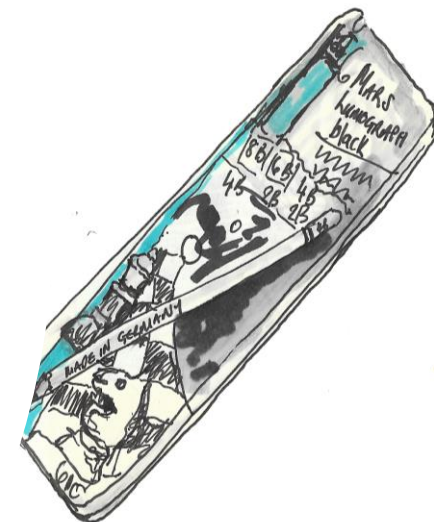
MY SUITCASE. 6/07/19 - 26/07/19

Fig. 3 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'My suitcase'.  
Felt tip on paper.



DIPLODOCUS PENCIL CASE

Fig. 4 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Diplodocus Pencil case'.  
Felt tip on paper.



ARTISTS PENCILS

Fig. 5 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Artists Pencils'.  
Felt tip on paper.



Fig. 6 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Highlighter (4)'.

Felt tip on paper.

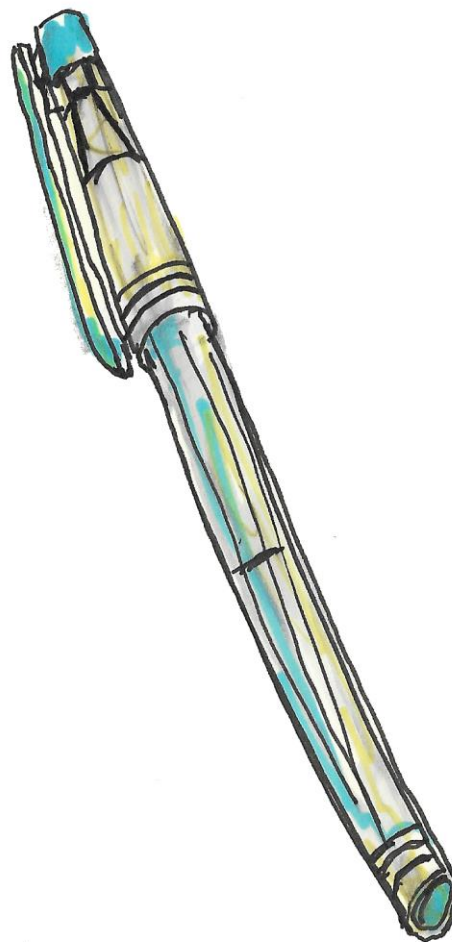


HIGHLIGHTER  
(4)

Fig. 7 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Dong-A Fine -Tech Pens'.

Felt tip on paper.

(INSIDE DIPLODOCUS PENCIL CASE)



DONG-A FINE-TECH PENS  
(4)

Fig. 8 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Stolen Pens (stolen from various locations)'. Felt tip on paper.



STOLEN PENS (STOLEN FROM  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS)  
(14)



(INSIDE OTHER PENCIL  
CASE)



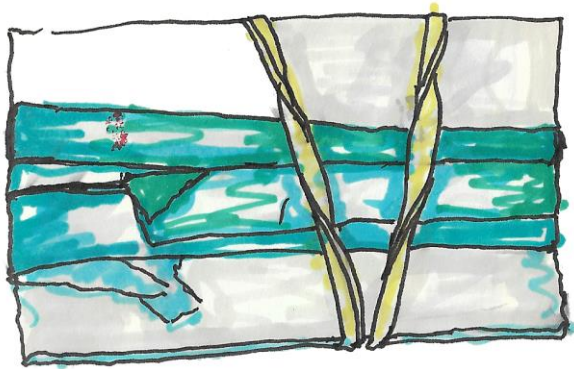
WINSOR + NEWTON PROMARKER  
(21)

Fig. 9 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Winsor & Newton  
Promarker'. Felt tip on paper.

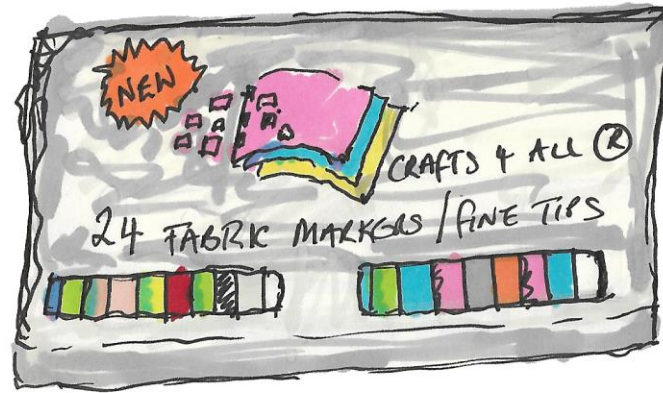


SIGN ME MARKER  
(8)

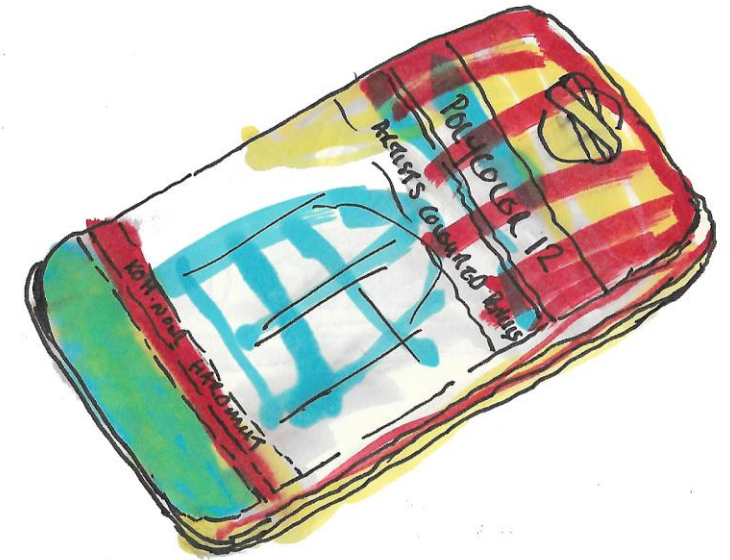
Fig. 10 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Sign me Marker'.  
Felt tip on paper.



SCRAP OF FABRIC



24 FABRIC MARKERS



COLOURED PENCILS

Fig. 11 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Scrap of fabric'. Felt tip on paper.

Fig. 12 Clempson. CA. (2019) '24 Fabric Markers'. Felt tip on paper.

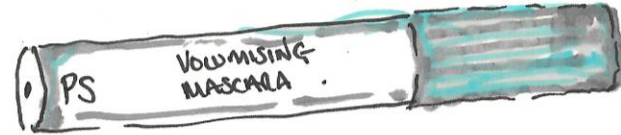
Fig. 13 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'ArtiPencils'. Felt tip on paper.

Fig. 14 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Toothbrush'.  
Felt tip on paper.



TOOTH BRUSH

Fig. 15 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Mascara'.  
Felt tip on paper.



MASCARA .

Fig. 16 Clempson. CA. (2019) 'Conditioner'.  
Felt tip on paper.



CONDITIONER

# THE EXHIBITION: REDGATE GALLERY BEIJING

## Exhibition Statement



Red Gate Residency

红门国际艺术家驻地项目



Charlene Clempson York, England 约克, 英国

Image Maker 图像制作者

Supported by The Claire Frances Peasall Memorial Fund via St Hugh's Foundation for the Arts 2019

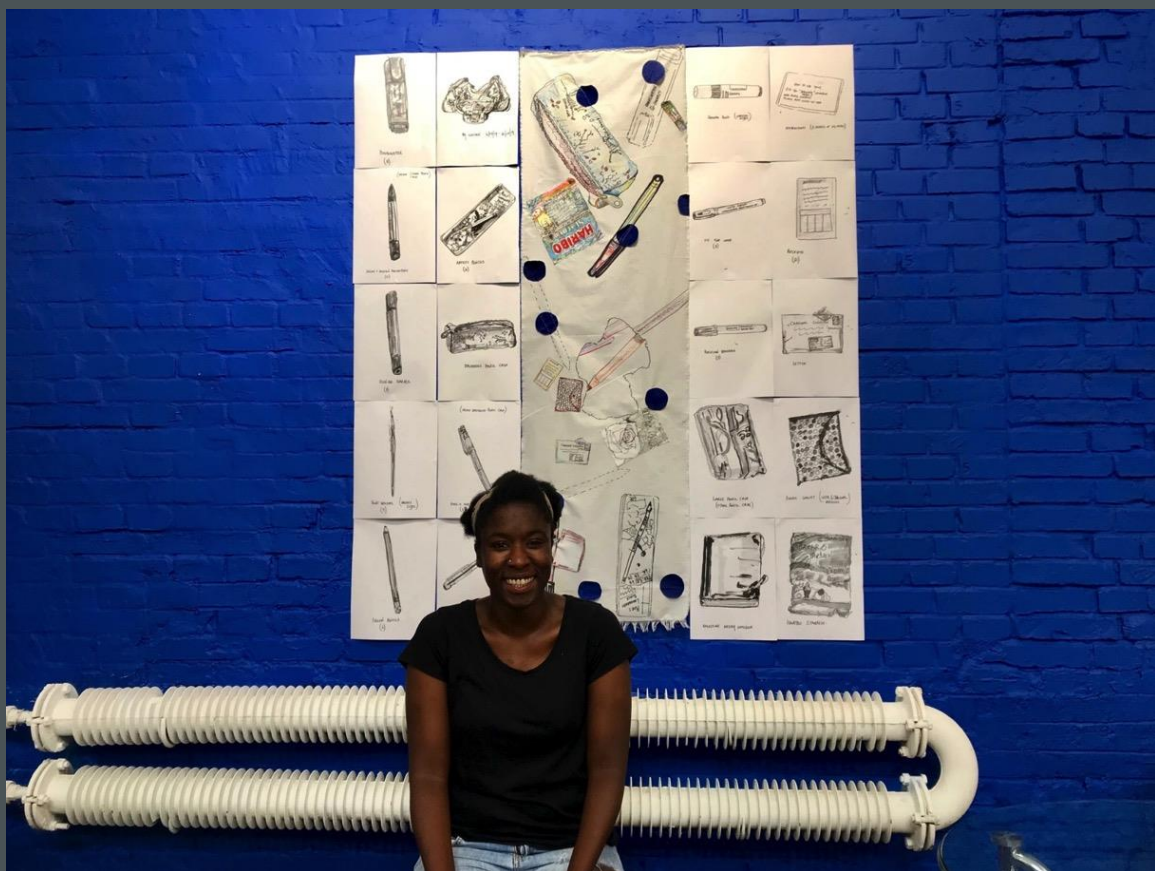
由圣休 2019 年艺术基金会 克莱尔弗朗西丝佩斯纳尔纪念基金资助

Charlene Clempson is a member of the Drawing matters studios group (based at York St John University) and is also currently working on a writing project which focuses on diaspora and narrative. This project is part of a larger project entitled *Diaspora as a practice*: drawing/image making and narrative are used to 'show and tell' auto-ethnographic information.

This project is part of a larger project entitled *Diaspora as a practice*: drawing/image making and narrative are used to 'show and tell' auto-ethnographic information. Charlene's interest in the residency is from a practice-based research perspective. One of the aims of the residency is to explore diaspora as an everyday concept. If diaspora or diasporic identities have commonly been theorized for Hall (2003 and 2000) and Gilroy (1991) as dealing with 'roots and routes' (rather than what is to hand), that is to say that history still connects to their prior geographical location, or 'geographical mobility' (Blunt 2007), and social individuals could not make their own history. Humans negotiate different spaces that differ from home or places that are possessed; I am intrigued with the objects and ideas that are transported and transportable. I am interested in not only what objects that 'we travel with' but how tastes and objects change in response to travel. The piece displayed is at the planning stage and records the contents of a suitcase. I travel with some of these objects. On my return 'home' a secondary piece will be produced to show change of objects in a suitcase.

For more information, please visit: [www.charleneclompson.com](http://www.charleneclompson.com)





Exhibition: Red Gate Gallery, 798. Beijing, China July 2019.

Review: <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/4MaXFUmK6OmGEPQpeVCvDg>

Fig. 17 Clempson, CA. (2019) 'Drawing Diaspora' image of work exhibited



## Red Gate Residency

### 红门国际艺术家驻地项目



Image Credit: Ricardo Pinto

七月份红门驻地艺术家的内部交流活动  
 二零一九年，七月二十七日，周六，  
 下午三点至六点  
 红门画廊  
 Private Viewing of the July  
 Red Gate Residents' Show  
 at Red Gate Gallery  
 Saturday, July 27th, 2019  
 from 3 - 6 pm

Artists 艺术家:  
 Ellen Steele, Australia 澳大利亚  
 Patrick Baumüller, Austria 奥地利  
 Mojgan Habibi, Iran 伊朗  
 Charlene Clempson, UK 英国  
 Ricardo Pinto, Mexico 墨西哥



Fig. 18 Clempson, CA (2019) Exhibition flyer

# Group Exhibition imagery

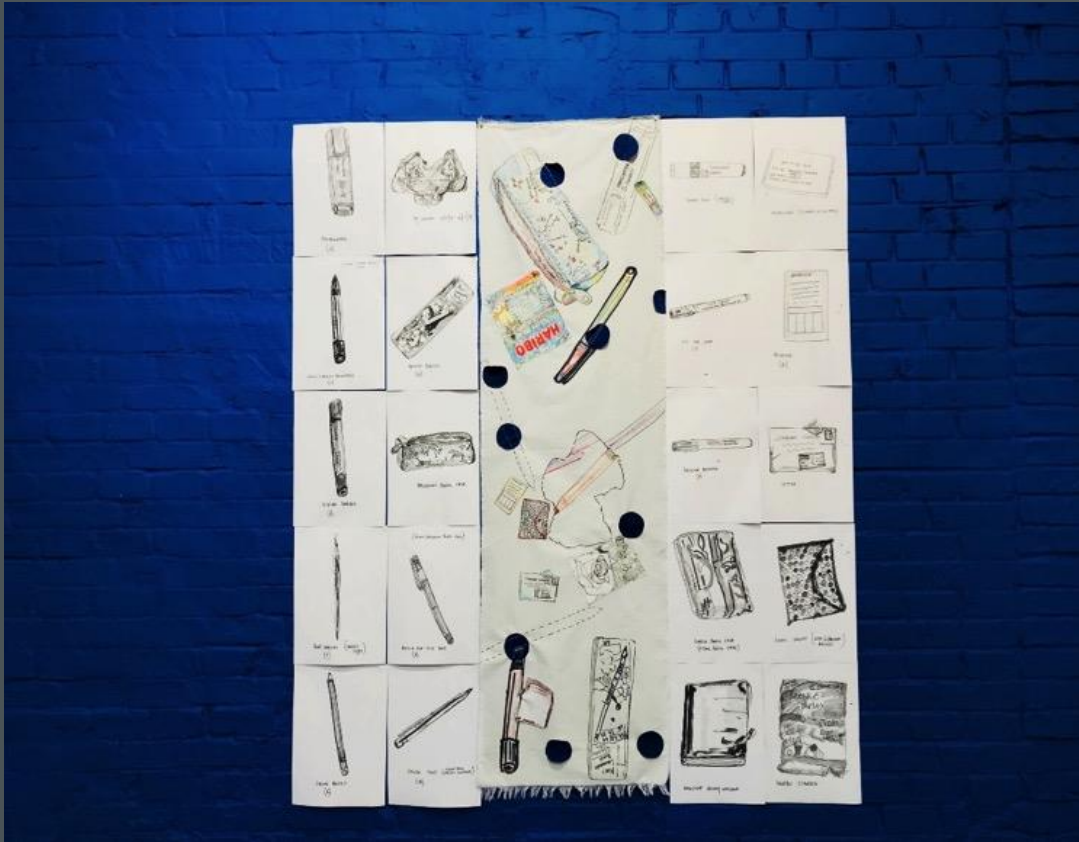


Fig. 19 Clempson, CA. (2019) 'Drawing Diaspora' image of work exhibited



Fig. 20 Clempson, CA (2019) exhibition setup

# GROUP EXHIBITION: IN MY HOUSE

Group Exhibition: In My House (2020) – 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2020

Blog post <https://www.abigailmillerstudio.co.uk/inmyhouse2-1>

## **Drawing Diaspora- my suitcase**

Drawing Diaspora (my suitcase) is the documentation (drawings) of the contents of a suitcase. In recording the objects that the suitcase contains the idea of ethnicity (groups) has another meaning - one that pertains to a larger form of grouping - to be human. The works produced were created during a residency in China - the suitcase contained what was necessary to produce work and live in Beijing for a month.

One of the aims of the residency is to explore diaspora as an everyday concept. If diaspora/ or diasporic identities have commonly been theorized for Hall (1997) and Gilroy (1993) as dealing with 'roots and routes' (rather than what is to hand), that is to say that history still connected the individual to prior geographical location/ 'geographical mobility' (Blunt 2007) and social individuals could not make their own history. Humans negotiate different spaces that differ from home or places that are possessed- I am intrigued with the objects and ideas that are transported/transportable. In addition to that, the suitcase is a mini version of home and is fitting if the work can be shown/displayed and seen in the 'home' of another.





Fig. 21 & 22 Clempson, CA(2019) 'Toothbrush' and 'Mascara'. Felt tip on paper.



Fig. 23 Clempson, CA(2020) Drawing Diaspora- image of exhibited work.

# EXHIBITION BLOG

## Exhibition Blog.

Charlene Clempson presents a series of works on paper, 'Drawing Diaspora - My Suitcase' displayed in both the bedroom and in suite spaces, to mirror the artist's experience of using these objects during a residency in China. Her practise is rooted within the theme of self-identity, she uses a method of 'graphic inventory' to explore the idea of possession and ownership in different spaces. Charlene speaks in reference to this work; "Humans negotiate different spaces that differ from home or places that are possessed - I am intrigued with objects and ideas that are transportable...the suitcase is a mini version of home." These drawings, whilst indicative of an experience in one space, are now transportable and reside in the domestic space of another.

Taken from:

<https://www.abigailmillerstudio.co.uk/inmyhouse2>



Fig. 24. Clempson, CA(2020) Drawing Diaspora – image of exhibited work

## EVALUATION

- One of the issues is that I was unable to exhibit work locally. St Hugh's supported me in looking for a space but this was at the beginning of the year. I was planning on travelling back to China earlier in the year to accomplish elements of the project that I thought were unfinished – the zine. Although the project did not go to plan I have the body of work which I can build upon for future exhibitions . So my plan going forward is to do the following:
- Travel back to Beijing to finish the Zine
- Exhibit the work locally – framed – over the next couple of years
- Exhibit the zine as a separate entity – as another form of documentation
- Upload all work my website by January 2021.