

## PRESS RELEASE

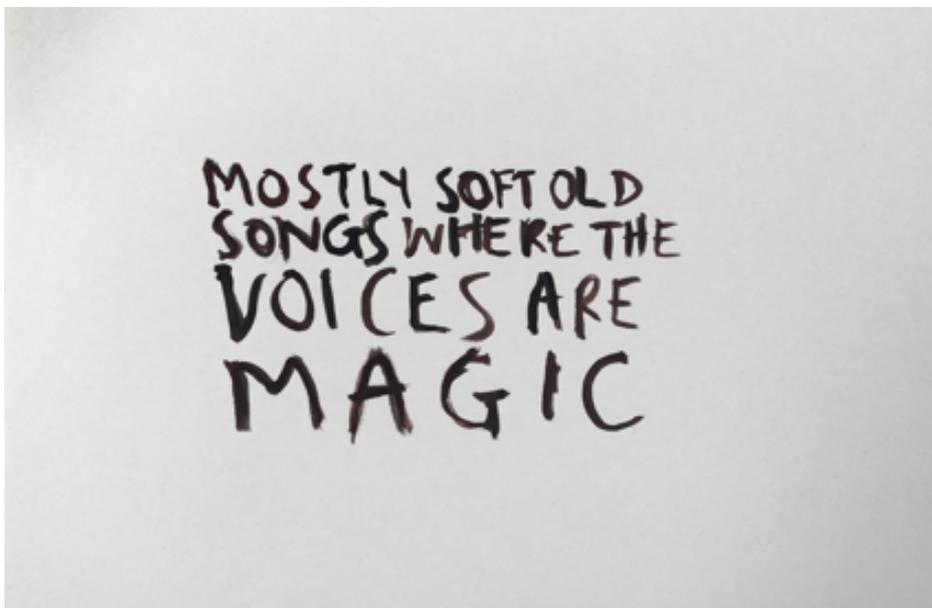
### Departure Lounge presents a new commission by renowned British artist Tim Etchells

#### Tim Etchells: Hearing Voices

6 March – 18 April 2020 (Closed for Easter weekend)

Departure Lounge, 64 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY

Exhibition Launch: Thursday 5 March 2020, 6.00 – 8.00pm.



Tim Etchells, Hearing Voices (2020). Image courtesy of the Artist.

**Hearing Voices** is an ambitious new project by Tim Etchells in Luton's Hat District. It presents new works, including a series of text drawings and a striking neon sign set into the windows of Luton's Departure Lounge gallery, and provides visitors with a unique and playful glimpse of the town and some of its inhabitants.

Starting with a set of unlikely and disconnected questions - *What is your happiest moment or your happiest memory? What did you dream last night? When and where were you last lost? Describe the face of someone you care about?* – Etchells initiated conversations with members of the public in the High Town area of Luton. He uses material from the resulting dialogues as a prompt for the new text works. Using short excerpts and out-of-context phrases from what's said in these playful meetings, **Hearing Voices** reflects Etchells' encounters with a diverse group that ranges from shopkeepers and gardeners, to car park attendants, barbers and cab-drivers - serving as a surprising and fragmentary portrait of the town.

Etchells' newly commissioned neon work - 'Kind of Stillness' – also arises from his conversational interaction with Luton residents. As with much of his practice, the new neon draws on contradictory

aspects of language – especially its ability to conjure strong images whilst at the same time creating a rich field of ambiguity. For Etchells the art works are in their own way the beginning of a process – interventions in the town to which viewers will react to with their own thoughts, questions and imaginings. The full text of the neon work – The Kind of Stillness in which Everyone is Listening – exists as an image - a moment from a story or a picture-book perhaps - but also as an attempt to still the busy pavement outside the gallery and to generate a moment of focused attention in which the town might reflect on itself.

**Tim Etchells** is an artist and writer based in Sheffield and London. His work shifts between performance, visual art, and writing, and is presented in a wide variety of contexts, from museums and galleries to festivals and public sites.

**Hearing Voices** is generously funded by Arts Council England. It is organised by Departure Lounge and is delivered in partnership with The Culture Trust.



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### Visitor information

Departure Lounge, Storefront, 64 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY

Open hours: Thursday – Saturday, 1.00 – 6.00pm, and by appointment

Admission free

[www.departure-lounge.org.uk](http://www.departure-lounge.org.uk)

[gallery@departure-lounge.org.uk](mailto:gallery@departure-lounge.org.uk)

### Travel information

Luton Rail Station is within a 2-minute walk

Please note there is no step free access at Luton Rail Station. Individuals in need of assistance should travel via Luton Airport Parkway, this station is a 10 minute bus ride away.

Luton Bus Interchange is situated outside Luton Rail Station a 2 minute walk.

The nearest carpark to the Gallery is Bute Street Car Park, which can be accessed via Church Street. This car park is free after 6pm.

### Social Media

