



**Press Release**  
**September 2014**  
**Bloomberg SPACE**  
**Darren Almond**  
**In the Shadow of Words**  
**Opening 2nd October 2014, 6-8pm**  
**3rd October – 14th December 2014**

Bloomberg SPACE presents 'In the Shadow of Words' an exhibition by British artist Darren Almond.

The exhibition features a multi-channel sound and video installation 'Less than Zero' and a train plate work also titled 'In the Shadow of Words'. These works revisit Almond's long-standing engagement with the development of the industrial age, its infrastructure, its consequences and its inherent effects on both our culture and physical landscape.

Darren Almond's multiscreen installation 'Less than Zero' (2014) was filmed in the white tundra of Norilsk, Northern Siberia, a city that has figured repeatedly in the British artist's work over the past dozen years – not least for how it functions as a microcosm of industrial and ecological dynamics today, and as a harbinger of tomorrow. The town was set up as a Soviet gulag, Norilag, centred upon mining via forced labour after the discovery of vast mineral reserves. Today, Norilsk exists as a hugely productive nickel mine which has toxic consequences on both the landscape and the atmosphere.

In Almond's interacting looped sets of footage, which constitute the second part of a projected trilogy of film works on the region (beginning with *Anthropocene: The Prelude* in 2010), binary relations offer a darkly poetic, questioning exploration of this particular situation. On two large suspended screens, black and white film footage of nickel smelting is juxtaposed with images of swirling snows and pylons on the road that connects Norilsk with the port town of Dudinka, from which the nickel is shipped. In front of this ominous black and white footage, a sequence of monitors placed throughout the space show a metronomic, mechanised process of the smelting in hot colour.

Positive and negative, fire and ice, colour and monochrome: polarities link, here, to poles and poles to ice caps. In the work's voiceover, Almond and a series of other speakers recite a litany of words by E.L. Doctorow in Japanese, Danish and English (extracted from the introduction to *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J Sherwin). The sequence represents a one-way timeline of the changing uses of nuclear energy.

The exhibition is punctuated with three bronze train plates that read, PEOPLE LAUGHED, PEOPLE CRIED, and MOST WERE SILENT. These lines are Oppenheimer's own, describing – to Japanese interviewers – the reactions in America when the atomic tests were done. For Almond, they also reflect divided opinion across the world today: laughing, crying and silence all simultaneously taking place amongst those who lead, labour and witness. In Norilsk, as viewed through Almond's probing lens, we can see something of the darkening road ahead.

**Editor's Notes****3rd October - 14th December 2014****Open Mon - Sat, 11am- 6pm****About Darren Almond**

Darren Almond was born 1971 in Wigan, UK. He lives and works in London. His solo exhibitions to date include Art Tower Mito, Japan (2013); Sala Alcalá 31, Madrid Château Gallery, Domaine Régional de Chaumont-sur-Loire (2012); The High Line, New York, Villa Merkel, Esslingen, L'Abbaye de la Chaise Dieu, Chaise Dieu; Frac Haute-Normandie, Rouen and FRAC Auvergne, Clermont Ferrand (2011); Parasol Unit, London (2008); SITE Santa Fe (2007); Museum Folkwang, Essen (2006); K21, Düsseldorf (2005); Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan (2003); Tate Britain, London, Kunsthalle Zurich, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam (all 2001); and The Renaissance Society, Chicago (1999). He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2005.

**About Bloomberg's commissioning programme**

The Bloomberg SPACE programme reflects our philanthropic passion to support exciting talent and to commission new works. Since 2002, Bloomberg SPACE has worked with more than 470 artists and has commissioned over 120 new works.

[www.bloombergspace.com](http://www.bloombergspace.com)

**About Bloomberg**

Bloomberg, the global business and financial information and news leader, gives influential decision makers a critical edge by connecting them to a dynamic network of information, people and ideas. The company's strength – delivering data, news and analytics through innovative technology, quickly and accurately – is at the core of the Bloomberg Professional service, which provides real time financial information to more than 320,000 subscribers globally. Headquartered in New York, Bloomberg employs more than 15,500 people in 192 locations around the world.

[www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

**Press information**

Natalie Harland, Bloomberg

Tel: +44 7881 250 570

[nharland1@bloomberg.net](mailto:nharland1@bloomberg.net)

**Listings information**

Darren Almond, In the Shadow of Words, 3rd October – 14th December 2014

Open Mon - Sat 11am- 6pm

[gallery@bloomberg.net](mailto:gallery@bloomberg.net)

50 Finsbury Square, London, EC2A 1HD

Tel: +44 207330 7950

[www.bloombergspace.com](http://www.bloombergspace.com)