

# Croydon Plays Itself

Written by Favour J

A Solo Exhibition Of Newly Commissioned Work By Harold Offeh

18 Jan – 2 Mar

Free & Open To All

Wed-Sat 11-5pm And Until 8pm On Thursdays

Turf Projects, 46-47 Trinity Court,

Whitgift Centre,

Croydon

CR0 1UQ

## **Background:**

The Turf project was founded in 2013 by Croydon locals and is currently the first entirely artist-run art space in Croydon, South London.

Turf is a registered charity which has supported large numbers of artists through various programmes by providing free public space with workshops, events and exhibitions.

Turf also helps to run vocational skills workshops for a collective of adults with learning difficulties known as MOSS, as well as create residency programmes for Croydon School of Art students, host family workshops, projects with local schools and they also have a young people's collective programme working with local Croydon residents aged 14-21 years old.

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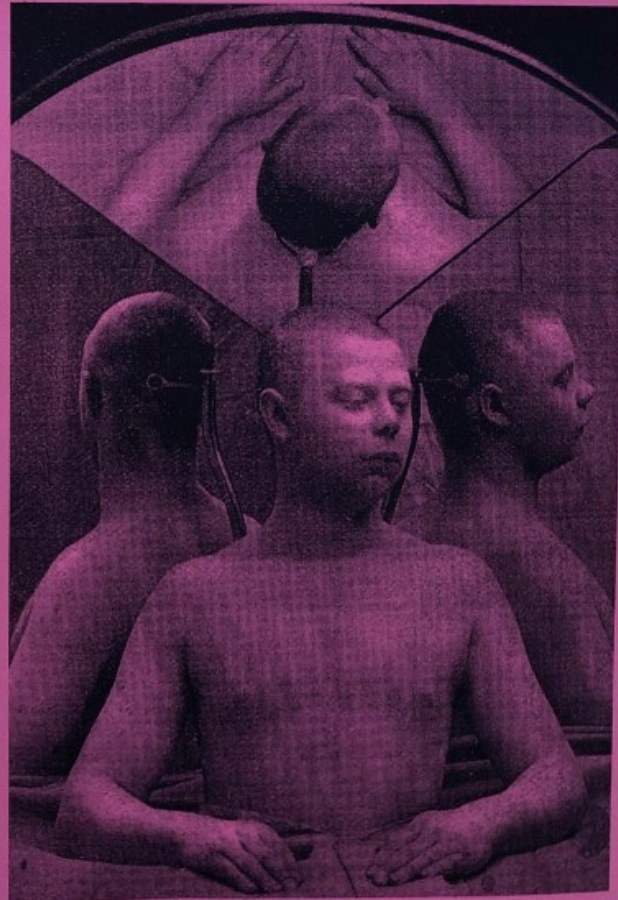


## ***Havelock Mirror Portraits***

A2 colour prints, 2019

A series of portraits of Croydon people and me posing in the Havelock Mirror. Participants from Croydon School of Art include

Chioma Udogaranya  
Tyler Clarke  
Jordan Geogestone-Lettman  
Maurad Archibold  
Vinni Dylan Mampaksa  
Elidzhan Matnish  
Mawhendy Julmiste





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**Bio:**

Harold Offeh is an artist who has exhibited widely in the UK and Internationally, including the Tate Britain and Tate Modern, Studio Museum Harlem, South London Gallery, MAC VAL, Kulturhusset Stockholm and Kunsthall Charlottenborg.

He works with a range of materials from video to photography, performances and installation. His work approach social issues with a hint humour, working with people through a socially-engaged practice.

Offeh was commissioned by Turf to create a show in response to items in the Croydon museum. He was first drawn to the figure and objects from 'The History of Croydon', looking at composer Samuel Coleridge -Taylor, sexologist Havelock Ellis, Jackson's lavender oil and the promotional material left from the 1993 'Croydon Pride Festival'.

With the historical material to-hand, Offeh's approach was to challenge how Croydon's history connects with the current landscape of the area, looking at the essence and creative nature of Croydon presently. As Offeh sometimes works socially, he has chosen to collaborate with individuals and groups from Croydon to create a local response to the items selected from the local museum.

Entering the space you can smell Lavender coming from one of the installations; the space filled with colours displaying the brightness of Croydon and the talent of its resident populus. I really enjoyed the different responses from the exhibition, and I learnt a lot of things about Croydon that I had not known previously despite living in Croydon for many years.

It was really interesting to find out more.

Events programme, running until February. Find out more at <http://turf->



[projects.com/croydon-plays-itself-harold-offeh/](https://projects.com/croydon-plays-itself-harold-offeh/)

Find out more about Harold Offeh at <http://haroldoffeh.com>