Adam Chodzko

Renaming The World

Camden Art Centre Arkwright Road London NW3

Take part in this two part activity to have fun reimagining words, create new ones and imagine fantastical new hybrids!

Suitable for: adults and children

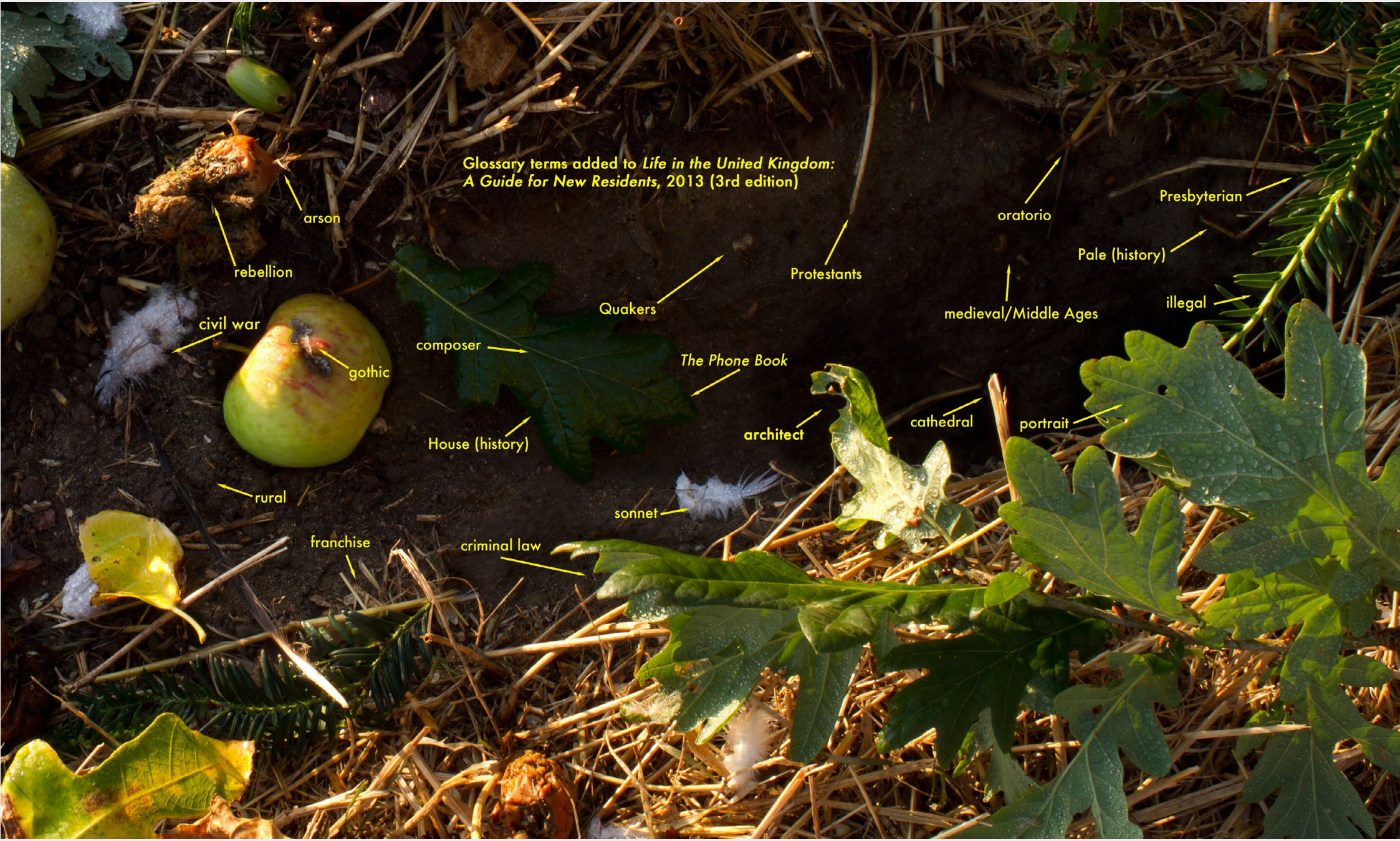
Part 1: Renaming the world

Lots of creation myths begin with the first humans naming the different elements in the world around them for the first time.

What if the names for everything turned out to be completely 'wrong' and it was our job to rename them?

Begin by replacing the first letter of each object you see, or the first letter of the name of a person you see, with the first letter of your own name Example; if your name is Ben: you might see a table and rename it bable, you see your friend Helen and rename her Belen, you see a car and rename it bar.

How do you feel that your relationship with these objects has changed since you renamed them? Do you feel more closely connected to them? Or do they seem much stranger to you now?


Glossary terms added to *Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents*, 2013 (3rd edition)
arson
rebellion
civil war
gothic
composer
Quakers
Protestants
oratorio
Presbyterian
Pale (history)
medieval/Middle Ages
illegal
The Phone Book
House (history)
architect
cathedral
portrait
rural
sonnet
franchise
criminal law

Part 2: Hybrids

Now that you have started renaming the world, let's take it further and create hybrids!

Hybrids: a hybrid is a thing made by combining elements of different things.

Taking the first letter of your name what is the next thing you see that also starts with that first letter? And the next object (or person!) you notice that also starts with that same first letter (there is no hurry to find this...it could be days later)? Put these two things together to make a hybrid that combines both of them.

Now; What is its new hybrid name? (don't think too hard: just allow it to tell you by noticing the first thing that comes into your head!)

What might this new thing be for? (don't think too hard: just allow it to tell you by noticing the first thing that comes into your head!)

If it spoke...what would it say to you? (don't think too hard: just allow it to tell you by noticing the first thing that comes into your head!)

Examples:

If your name is Catherine, and taking the first letter as 'c' you might next notice a... carpet and then, later on, a cat.

The hybrid name might therefore be: catarpet!

What would it do? Perhaps it's an animal that looked after the soles of your feet?

Hybrid :
Pa
Medenbane Tree

Here are some tips to take this activity further:

Start your own dictionary of new words and hybrids.

Create drawings, collages of images, or descriptions of what you imagine the hybrid to look like and what it does.

You could use your new words and hybrids to make a story – write it down or act it out with the help of friends and family!

Image credits
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The Artist

Adam Chodzko is an artist working across media, exploring our conscious and unconscious behaviour, social relations and collective imaginations through artworks that are propositions for alternative forms of 'social media.' Exhibiting work nationally and internationally since 1991, his work speculates how, through the visual, we might best connect with others.