



Kate Genever and Steve Pool delivered Never-Land. What will Europe look like in 200 years? In Venice and Sheffield in 2019. They talked about this work as part of the conference. They developed Never-Land in response to the current state of things. They are committed to making with people and are interested in what happens when art is made together. Their ambition is to connect, to challenge and to enquire.





Never-Land builds on *We are not an island* project from 2018. Funded by The British Council, Making Ways – Sheffield and Ca' Foscari University. This year Never-Land builds on those relationships and carries the work forward. Work travelled between sites and was used to grow ideas and build connections.



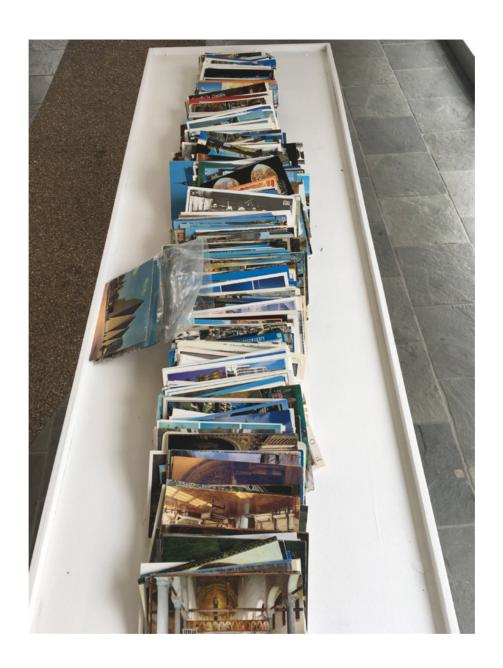
Never-Land is a fictional nowhere. Its is an imagined Europe 200 years from now. John Ruskin was born only 4 years after the battle of Waterloo, he took his first trip to Europe in 1833, the year the British abolished slavery. When the young Ruskin stepped onto land in Calais, the horse and the hand were still the driving force behind human industry.



In looking backwards 200 years, Kate and Steve wondered could it have been possible to predict of today. In looking forward they ask: "Will it be a place that acknowledges John Ruskin's love of beauty and nature? Will it value the hand and personal creativity and the importance of collective action? We felt 200 years put you far enough into the future so you weren't tied to what was happening now. The changes of the last 200 years would suggest we can only dream and speculate".



In Sheffield and Venice they established spaces where people came together to share their visions through talking, debate, reflection and making.



They utilised 100s of found European postcards and invited people to collage using magazines, imagery, words – to add their vision building on the visions of others. The only rule was that the vision must be hopeful.



Why Collage? Collage sticks thoughts together it allows you to imagine things differently. Using found imagery does not rely on learnt and practised skills. You can put images together quickly. Collage *Emphasises concept and process over end product, collage brings the incongruous into meaningful congress with the ordinary.* 







The project supported people to address what is scary and what has potential, what is urgent, what is, and may not be to come. Collage allowed people to warp and make new realities in new ways. Collage is propositional, it's the perfect method to complement and extend our theme.

Never Land is/was a space of resistance and action. Conscious of Brexit and the generation that weren't given a choice on something that would affect their future – Kate and Steve aimed to counter negative thoughts by reframing them and making actions.





Never Land is a place we can only dream of, it's a place that doesn't exist but in trying the project connected young people across Europe.





At the final exhibition students were asked what was important. A young woman said: "We were scared and negative at the beginning about the future, but working together has made us more positive – not about the state of the world or Europe, but that through coming together and working ideas come to help".