

Allan deSouza's *Through the Black Country*...

Created by Thacher Gallery

Terms with discussion

The Jungle: On his way to London, Mumbai's passes through "The Jungle," a refugee camp located in Calais, France and active from 2015-2016. Look up the etymology of the word jungle and consider its many associations. Why might a refugee camp be called this? Where do you see references to the word in the exhibition?

The Black Country was coined in the mid-1800s to refer to a region in the West Midlands of England where coal mining and industrialization led to pollution. How is the artist using the term here? What other connotations and play on words does it use? (Also see H.M. Stanley below.)

Brexit is the movement in the United Kingdom (UK) to withdraw from the European Union (EU), a block of 28 member states that guarantees the free movement of people, goods, and services throughout Europe. The vote, held on June 6, 2016, supported the UK leaving the EU by 51.9%. How are people, goods, and services represented in this exhibition?

A **merkin** (rhyming with Gherkin, a well-known contemporary building in London) is a pubic wig, used beginning in the 17th century to protect against and disguise sexually transmitted diseases. How does knowing this change the way you read "The Orange Merkin Strikes"?

The Thames is a river running through southern England and London. Look at the way in which it intersects London on a map. Now, study its location on one of the maps in *Through the Black Country*.... What do you notice? How do rivers, freeways, and other modes of transportation define and/or segregate cities?

H.M. Stanley was a 19th-century British explorer of Africa who wrote the two volume account *Through the Dark Country*. Where is his voice mimicked in this exhibition? To what effect?

Cryptozoology is the study of mythological creatures and crypto-anthropology is the study of human beings who may or may not have existed. In light of these terms, what do you think **crypto-ethnology** is? Can you give examples.