

In Nov 2021, The Night Gallery presents a “Night Owls” exhibition in Columbus, Indiana, as part of the Midnight Palace installation at Exhibit Columbus: New Middles. The "Night Owls" event featured a conversation between filmmaker-anthropologist Julius-Cezar MacQuarie and designer-educator Cyrus Peñarroyo. MacQuarie and Peñarroyo discussed "Nightshift Spitalfields" and "Manifest Destiny," two short films being screened at Midnight Palace through November 2021. Their conversation explored their research into night shift workers in London and the U.S., from the physical, emotional, and mental toll of those working "graveyard shift" to the states of (dis)appearance, (in)visibility, and aspiration of the Filipinx diaspora working in hospitals in LA.

This conversation was moderated by Ann Lui, principal at Future Firm, and was hosted both online on Zoom and in-person at Midnight Palace, 323 Brown St., Columbus, IN, US. To watch the full conversation, see the "Night Owls" Zoom Recording on Future Firm website: <https://bit.ly/3nJkShi>

Nightshift Spitalfields
2020, UK
10:25 min

In this 10-minute documentary, Ali, a Bulgarian-Turkish porter at the night market, works six nights a week, often on 15-hour shift, loading and transporting goods. These nightshifts are incredibly demanding, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Like Ali, many workers have families, but it's almost impossible to have a proper family life when on graveyard shift duty. They can't take proper part in society; they can't organise to improve their conditions – they are just exhausted and worn down. These night workers are an invisible group of people who keep the city running with their labour. Those of us who sleep at night have no idea that they even exist, but without them, the supermarket shelves would be empty in the morning. That's bad for them and likely even worse for London, which relies heavily on their labour to function as an urban metropolis.

Dr. Julius-Cezar MacQuarie is a filmmaker and anthropologist trained at Central European University. He is concerned with the invisibility of migrant nightshift workers from discussions on today's capitalism. He founded the Nightworkshop to research night work in global and smaller cities. He produced three short films (Invisible Lives: Romanian Night Shift Workers in London, UK, 2013) | Nocturnal Lives: Day Sleepers, UK, 2015 | Nightshift Spitalfields, UK, 2020) and a podcast (NightWorkPod, CEU Podcasts, Budapest, 2018).

Nightworkshop is a project set up to research migrant night workers in cities. It uses mixed methods to capture and make visible the hidden lives of night workers. The short films, photo collections and podcasts zoom into aspects

specific to lives spent in physical labour at night. By building a bridge between the researcher, the protagonists and the audience, the exhaustion, embodied precarity and the hidden nature of night work appear in the spotlight.