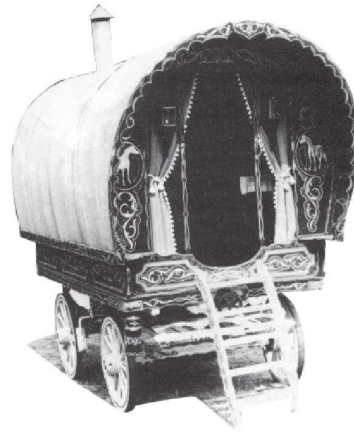


Gordon Boswell Romany Museum
Clay Lake
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE12 6BL



17 March 2008

Dear Margaret and Gordon

Greetings! My name is Beatty Hallas and I am an artist currently investigating ideas of home. This stems from a personal interest in the difficulties facing many individuals, particularly young people, who cannot afford to buy their own homes and are looking for alternatives. As a result, I am intrigued by the apparent independence, ingenuity and resourcefulness required of those who have a transitory lifestyle or have a temporary form of habitation.

During my research I have looked at the history of gypsy caravans. I grew up in Reading, with memories of the vardoes shown at the Museum of English Rural Life and have since discovered how many were manufactured in the town. The romance of gypsy caravans, along with their function as a travelling site of social exchange have remained significant to me.

I have been asked by curator Benjamin Heasman to contribute a piece to a show he is planning, entitled 'I MET A CARAVAN'. I hope to be able to work with a museum that has an original caravan in its collection and would be willing to accommodate the following proposal as my piece for this exhibition. I would like to invite Ben, the curator, to stay in a vardo for one night (within the museum). This would constitute a gift to him – one of the stipulations for participating in the exhibition. I am interested in his experience of inhabiting the caravan as a visitor (a private space, not often open to the public). Within the context of the museum, there will be an absurdity at staying in a vehicle designed for the open road, but also a sense of reanimating a space that was once a home. His solitariness will also constitute a kind of retreat, once inside, as it would if it were travelling.

He would, of course, have to abide by any restrictions the museum required during his visit and these would all be open for discussion. I am also very willing to be flexible around how this piece might work with regards to an artefact that is precious and perhaps vulnerable. The deadline for the exhibition is open, but depending on location, a summer arrangement might be preferable.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this (perhaps surprising) suggestion and please do get in touch with any questions or restraints, to clarify matters.

Looking forward to hearing from you and all the best,

Beatty Hallas