

Music & Liberation



An exhibition about Women's Liberation Music Making in the UK (1970-1989)

OPENING EVENT: 30 November 6.30-8.30 pm

All Welcome

Exhibition runs: 1 December - 13 January

Open Thursday - Sunday 12-6.00 pm

Gallery closed between 17 Dec - 9 January

Building One, 373 Kennington Road, London SE11 4PS

Music & Liberation: Women's Liberation Music Making in the UK, 1970 - 1989 shows how feminists used music as an activist tool to entertain and empower women during the 1970s and '80s.

Featuring the work of Jam Today, the Northern Women's Liberation Rock Band, Feminist Improvising Group, Ova, the Fabulous Dirt Sisters, Abandon Your Tutu, the Mistakes and many more, the exhibition brings together a diverse collection of women's cultural heritage. Music & Liberation will inspire and inform contemporary audiences about the politics of music making.

The exhibition will showcase rare ephemera and artefacts such as posters, songbooks, t-shirts, instruments and fliers. Visitors will be able to watch films, interact with installations, look at photographs and, of course, listen to music. This is a unique opportunity to listen to unreleased recordings of practices, live performances and studio tracks from women musicians yet to be discovered by contemporary audiences.

Ten oral histories, which have been collected especially for the project, will also be available to listen to and watch. Music & Liberation: A Compilation of Music from the Women's Liberation Movement will be sold at the exhibition. - Deborah M. Withers

Calender

A programme of events will run alongside the exhibition, including live music and a series of talks:

- **Opening Events - 30 November:** Legendary folk singer Frankie Armstrong will sing a few songs and Jude Alderson, founder of cult performance act the Sadista Sisters will share her memories.
- **8 December:** The inaugural *Queer Zine Fest London*, 12-7pm. With its own programme of talks and DJ's
- **8 December - 13 January:** An exhibition of posters from Melanie Maddison's *Shape & Situate* fanzine of inspirational women.
- **Closing Events - 13 January:** A conversation with Barby Asante, founder of the *South London Black Music Archive*, and exhibition curator Deborah Withers about community memories, generational transmissions and music. Chaired by Tom Perchard, author of *Lee Morgan - His Life, Music and Culture*.
Plus, screening of a documentary on *The Gluts*. Comprising Hayley Newman, Gina Birch and Kaffe Matthews, *The Gluts* are an all-female troupe of activists/artists/musicians. Followed by a Q&A, and the showing of Gluts' pop videos.



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Further Information

Deborah Withers

Deborah Withers is researcher, writer, curator and publisher who lives in Bristol. She has curated two exhibitions about feminist cultural history, *Sistershow Revisited* (2011) and *Music & Liberation* (2012), both funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. She is the founder of HammerOn Press that published a popular re-interpretation of PhD thesis called *Adventures in Kate Bush and Theory*. Deborah's academic writing has been published in the International Journal of Heritage Studies, *Women: A Cultural Review* and *Oral History*. Most recently she has contributed a chapter to the book, *Women Make Noise*, published by Aurora Metro in 2012.

Music & Liberation is based on the Women's Liberation Music Archive, an online archive launched in May 2011 by Frankie Green and Dr Deborah Withers.

www.womensliberationmusicarchive.wordpress.com

The archive, and the exhibition, would not be possible without the generous loaning of objects, music, films and other ephemera by women involved in music making in the WLM.

www.debi-rah.net

www.hammeronpress.net

Space Station Sixty-Five

1. Space Station Sixty-Five (SS65) is an artist-run space based in South-East London. Co-directed by artists Rachael House and Jo David, SS65 was founded by them in July 2002.

2. SS65 have recently started the process of expanding our activities to include new ventures including artist's studios, workshops and the gallery space. We have opened our new location, run by our company Space Modules Ltd., of approximately 1400-msq floor space at 373 Kennington Road, London that is now our main site of activities. Within this site, we have a large gallery with an attached project space. The new gallery opened earlier this year with a solo exhibition by Canadian artist Shari Hatt, which received critical and popular acclaim. The rest of the site will be open for business at the end of the second quarter of 2012.

3. SS65 launched two artist's studio bursaries in 2012 for Paul Jones and Rosalie Schweiker.

4. At SS65, we continue to curate the contemporary art we love in accessible venues, unswayed by fashion, trends and the whims of government funding.

5. The SS65 project involves ongoing research into the placing of contemporary art, its audiences and its relationship to the everyday. We place great emphasis on location, with an open door policy. We foster a large, lively and diverse audience.

6. Notable recent SS65 projects include: *I just want to be taken seriously as an artist etc.* by Shari Hatt, *Misercord* by Cathie Pilkington and Jay Cloth, *The Marquis of Camberwell*, part of Live on Stage at a Camberwell Pub, *Carny Town* at The Portman Gallery, *The Dulwich Horror* by Dean Kenning, window installations at The Waterloo Health Centre (a working GP surgery) and *The Peckham Experiment* at Camberwell Space, SS65 and other sites in Southwark.

7. The organisation supports other arts initiatives with which we share similar aims. These have included *Transfabulous*, transgender arts festival and *Drawn Out and Painted Pink* at The Drill Hall.

8. Visit the website: www.spacestationsixtyfive.com



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