

Women Artists of the North East Library

Workplace Foundation, Gateshead

www.workplacegallery.co.uk

Opening Day: Friday 22nd June 2018, 10am – 6pm

Exhibition opening hours: 10am – 6pm daily.
22nd June – 9th September 2018

Issued Tuesday 18th May 2018

Workplace Foundation is delighted to present *Women Artists of the North East Library*, an evolving exhibition documenting and exploring how North East women artists past and present are influencing the art world.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women Artists of the North East Library is an artist-led project that brings together donated material, including: books, art, images, letters, oral histories and music, to form a usable resource that contributes to the history of women artists working in the region. The Library was initiated by recent graduates Holly Argent & Rene McBrearty in 2017 and is currently hosted by The Northern Charter in Newcastle.

Throughout Great Exhibition of The North the library will be resident at Workplace Foundation in Gateshead and available to the public as an evolving exhibition, library, and platform for events and discussions aimed at repositioning the role and influence of women artists not just on the North East and the wider North, but on the international art world.

Building on previous public and private events initiated by the library including open library days, walks and a one day residency at BALTIC Library and Archive, the project in Gateshead will, for the first time, include exhibited work by artists referenced in the library from emerging talent and mid-career artists through to established artists and key historical figures. Alongside loaned artworks will be further documentation from exhibitions by women artists that have been a key influence on the young artists working in the region today.

The project will be expanded with further events including talks, discussions, workshops and performances.

At the mid point of the project at Workplace Foundation key elements will be repositioned in a parallel exhibition curated by George Vasey at CGP Gallery in London giving the project and the artists involved an immediate platform in the capital.

Throughout the project artists and the public will be invited to nominate Women artists and donate material that they think should be added to the Library.

The Women Artists of the North East Library at Workplace Foundation is curated by Holly Argent in conversation with George Vasey, Café Gallery Projects, London and Workplace Foundation, Gateshead.

-ENDS-

Press information:

For more information or images please contact:

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Visitor information

WORKPLACE FOUNDATION

The Old Post Office
19-21 West Street
Gateshead, NE8 1AD

Exhibition continues:
22nd June – 9th September 2018
Opening hours:
10am – 6pm

Admission Free
Nearest Bus/Metro: Gateshead Interchange
Disabled access

Online

Website: www.workplacegallery.co.uk
Twitter: [@_workplace_](https://twitter.com/_workplace_)
Facebook: [@workplacegallery](https://www.facebook.com/workplacegallery)
Instagram: [@workplacegallery](https://www.instagram.com/workplacegallery)

Notes to Editors

Holly Argent graduated from Newcastle University in 2017. She is an artist and active member of artist-led studios The Northern Charter. She set up The Women Artists of the North East Library in 2017 and organises events, screenings and readings that give visibility to female artists active across the North East. Her practice explores archives and historical material through moving image, text, collage, and drawing. Recently she presented work at *Studio is Sudden* (January 2018) with Giles Bailey and CIRCA Projects and was awarded the Forshaw Rome Residency from Newcastle University (July 2017) at The British School at Rome.

George Vasey is a curator and writer. He is currently a Teaching Fellow in Curating at Newcastle University and curator at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead. He curated the Turner Prize 2017 at Ferens Arts Gallery, Hull. In 2016-2017 he is lead mentor on Syllabus II, an alternative educational platform for artists set up by Wysing Arts Centre, S1, New Contemporaries, Spike Island, Studio Voltaire and Eastside Projects. His writing has appeared in Art Monthly, Art Review, Apollo, Burlington and Frieze. In 2013, he was writer in residence at Jerwood Space,

London. Recent independent projects include These Rotten Words (Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, 2017), Blend the Acclaim of your Chant with the Timbrels (Jerwood Space, London, 2016) and Eric Bainbridge: Potholes Drawings 1981 – 2015, (Workplace, London, 2016), Jo Spence & Alexis Hunter (Richard Saltoun, London, 2013) and A Small Hiccup (Grand Union, Birmingham, 2013). He studied BA Fine Art at Newcastle University and MA Curating at Goldsmiths. From 2014 to 2016 he was curator at Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland and has previously worked in public, artist-led and commercial galleries in education and curatorial roles.

WORKPLACE FOUNDATION is a new Charitable Foundation started by WORKPLACE in 2017 that promotes Contemporary Art for public benefit and supports under-represented and emerging Contemporary art practice through a rigorous and engaging programme of exhibitions and events. The Foundation aims to enrich the cultural life of the North of England by creating opportunities for the public to engage with art of exceptional quality, and to create a much larger audience for art through the Foundation's local and international networks. Workplace Foundation serves the communities of Gateshead and the North of England and aims to contribute to the regional art scene, and establish the area as a vital cultural centre within the UK. Workplace Foundation is part of Arts Council England National Portfolio.

CGP London. Founded by The Bermondsey Artists' Group in 1984, their mission is to foster creative empowerment and career development for all through the provision of activities that represent national excellence and local relevance. This artist-led organisation and registered charity presents it's programme across two unique venues in the heart of London's Southwark Park. Their high quality and ambitious exhibitions, installations, performances, events and learning experiences, hosted within a welcoming and accessible environment, continuously encourages their diverse local and national audiences to engage with visual art at its very best.

They provide significant exhibition opportunities and a pivotal career platform for artists and curators at all stages of their careers, proving a supportive test-site for experimentation and bold commissioning. CGP London's renowned Public Engagement Programme includes free learning activities and exhibition opportunities for local families, pupils, young people, students plus seniors and this has enabled the organisation to build a deep long-term engagement with its local community.

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