



WORKS

Sister O Sister
recycled board, vinyl, salt
410 x 800 x 500cm

One Hundred
ribbons, rope, hoops, nails
dimensions variable

Cruel Mothers
6-channel audio
7 min loop

Gross Lover Cruel Mother
chalk on wall
400 x 500cm

Seven Sisters
7-channel audio
49 min loop

Seven Sisters
single-channel video, silent
3 min loop

Score for Voices
7-panel text on arcoprint milk white
238 x 420mm
Limited edition of 1,000
Unlimited photocopies

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CREDITS

One Hundred
Colne & Colchester Embroiderers' Guild
Stitch & Bitch Colchester
YAK – Young Art Kommunity
Colchester Bangladeshi Mohila Shomity

Cruel Mother recordings by Shirley Collins (1960)
Jean Redpath (1962), John Renbourn Group (1962)
Dave and Toni Arthur (1970), Rebecca Pidgeon (1998)
Ruth Price and Sadie Greenwood (2003)

Seven Sisters
Spoken by Naomi Bulliard, Libita Clayton
Anjalie Dalal-Clayton, Alexandra Kokoli
susan pui san lok, Sophia Phoca, Erika Tan
Sound edited by Martin Baxter

Score for Voices
Supported by University of the Arts London
Designed by Land of Plenty

A COVEN A GROVE A STAND was commissioned by Firstsite as part of New Geographies, a project initiated by the East Contemporary Visual Arts Network, coordinated by Wysing Arts Centre. Made possible through funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Joan Haddon, Witham | 1560
John Samond, Danbury | 1560
Elizabeth Lowys, Great Waltham | 1564
Elizabeth Francis, Chelmsford | 1566
Joan Osborne, Chelmsford | 1566
Agnes Waterhouse, Chelmsford | 1566
Joan Waterhouse, Chelmsford | 1566
Lora Winchester, Chelmsford | 1566
Alice Atru, Great Coggelshall | 1567
Alice Prestmarye, Great Dunmow | 1567
Alice Bambricke, Little Baddow | 1569
Alice Swallow, Little Baddow | 1569
Elizabeth Francis, Hatfield | 1572
Agnes Francys, Hatfield Peverel | 1572
Katherine Pullen, Tollesbury | 1572
Margery Skelton, Little Wakering | 1572
William Skelton, Little Wakering | 1572
Agnes Steadman, Esse | 1572
Thomas Heather, Hoddesdon | 1573
Alice Chaundler, Maldon | 1574
Celia Glasenberye, Barking | 1574
Alice Hynckson, Thaxted | 1574
Elizabeth Taylor, Thaxted | 1574
Katherine Smythe, Great Yarmouth | 1575
Elizabeth Aylett, Brentwood | 1576
Joan Baker, Brentwood | 1576
Agnes Bromley, Hatfield Peverell | 1576
Elizabeth Francis, Chelmsford | 1579
Alice Nokes, Chelmsford | 1579
Margery Stanton, Chelmsford | 1579
William Randall, Ipswich | 1580
Elizabeth Bennet, St Osyth | 1582
Cecily Celles, St Osyth | 1582
Elizabeth Ewstace, St Osyth | 1582
Agnes Glascock, St Osyth | 1582
Margaret Grevell, St Osyth | 1582
Annis Heard, St Osyth | 1582
Alice Hunt, St Osyth | 1582
Ursula Kempe, St Osyth | 1582
Alice Manfield, St Osyth | 1582
Alice Newman, St Osyth | 1582
Margery Sammon, St Osyth | 1582
Joan Turner, St Osyth | 1582
Cecilia Atkins, Great Yarmouth | 1583
Elizabeth Butcher, Great Yarmouth | 1583
Elizabeth Brooke, Great Leighs | 1584
Elizabeth Butcher, Great Yarmouth | 1584
Joan Lingwood, Great Yarmouth | 1584
Helenea Gill, Great Yarmouth | 1587
Joan Cony, Chelmsford | 1589
Joan Prentice, Chelmsford | 1589
Joan Upney, Chelmsford | 1589
Margaret Read, King's Lynn | 1590
Alice Stamperde, Framlingham | 1591
Olive Barthram, Stradbroke | 1599

Alison Gross that lives in yon tower
The ugliest witch in the North Country
Has trysted me one day up to her bower
And many a fair speech she made to me

She stroked my head and she's combed my hair
She set me down softly on her knee
Saying, "If you will be my lover so true
So many good things I would give to you"

"Away, away, you ugly witch
Go far away and let me be
I never will be your lover so true
And wish I were out of your company"

Chorus (after every other verse):
Alison Gross, she must be
The ugliest witch in the North Country
Alison Gross, she must be
The ugliest witch in the North Country

She showed me a mantle of red scarlet
With golden flowers and fringes fine
Says, "If you will be my lover so true
This goodly gift it shall be thine"

She showed me a shirt of the softest silk
Well wrought with pearls about the band
Saying, "If you will be my lover so true
This goodly gift you shall command"

She showed me a cup of the good red gold
Well set with jewels so fair to see
Says, "If you will be my lover so true
This goodly gift I would give to thee"

"Away, away, you ugly witch
Go far away and let me be
I never would kiss your ugly mouth
For all of the gifts that you could give"

She's turned her right and round about
And thrice she blew on a grass-green horn
She swore by the moon and the stars up above
That she'd make me rue the day I was born

Then out she has taken a silver wand
She's turned her three times round and round
She's muttered such words till my
strength it did fail
And she's turned me into an ugly worm

Alison Gross (Steeleye Span version)
Roud Folk Song Index [3212]
Child Ballads [35]

An Ambush of Amys
An Army of Annes
A Drift of Janes
A Murder of Margarets
A Rake of Rebeccas
A Rush of Roses
A Siege of Susans

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A Siege of Susans

Seven Sisters
7-channel audio script (chorus)
susan pui san lok

A minister's daughter in the north
– Hey the rose and the lindsay-o
She's fallen in love with her father's clerk
– Down by the greenwood side-i-o

He courted her for a year and a day
Till her the young man did betray

She leaned her back up against a tree
And there the tear did blind her eye

She leaned her back up against a thorn
And that her bonny boys she has born

She's taken out her little pen-knife
And she has twined them of their life

She laid them beneath some marble stone
Thinking to go a maiden home

As she looked over her father's wall
She saw her two bonny boys playing ball

"Oh bonny boys, if you were mine
I would dress you in silk so fine"

"Oh cruel mother, when we were thine
We didn't see aught of your silk so fine"

"Oh bonny boys, come tell to me
What sort of death I'll have to die?"

"Seven years as a fish in the flood
And seven years a bird in the wood"

"Seven years a tongue in the warning bell
And seven years in the flames of hell"

"Welcome, welcome, fish in the flood
And welcome, welcome, bird in the wood"

"Welcome, tongue to the warning bell
But God keep me from the flames of hell"

The Cruel Mother (Shirley Collins version)
Roud Folk Song Index [9]
Child Ballads [20]

1600 | Hockham, Margaret Francis
1603 | Great Yarmouth, Alice Moore
1606 | Royston, Joan Harrison
1606 | Royston, Alice Stokes
1606 | Royston, Christiana Stokes
1610 | Chelmsford, Katherine Lawrett
1613 | Bedford, Mary Sutton
1613 | Bedford, Mother Sutton
1616 | Upminster, Susan Barker
1616 | King's Lynn, Mary Smith
1627 | Hawstead, Margery Spencer
1634 | Harwich, Jane Prentice
1635 | Hertford, Joan Meade
1637 | Bedford, Goodwife Rose
1645 | Chelmsford, Elizabeth Clarke
1645 | Great Clacton, Joan Cooper
1645 | Bury St Edmonds, Alice Denham
1645 | Alresford, Mary Greenliefie
1645 | Wivenhoe, Mary Johnson
1645 | Bury St Edmonds, Mary Lakeland
1645 | Bury St Edmonds, John Lowes
1645 | Thorpe-le-Soken, Margaret Moone
1645 | Chelmsford, Anne West
1645 | Chelmsford, Rebecca West
1646 | Southwold, Ann Camell
1646 | Upwell, Ellen Garrison
1647 | Cheshunt, Elizabeth Browne
1647 | Stretham, Margaret Moore
1649 | Hitchen, Mary Bichance
1649 | St Albans, Elizabeth Knott
1649 | Norton, Mary Laymen
1649 | Norton, John Laymen senior
1649 | Norton, John Laymen junior
1649 | Weston, Mrs Mayes
1649 | St Albans, John Palmer
1649 | Hitchen, Widow Palmer
1649 | Norton, John Salmon
1649 | Norton, John Salmon senior
1649 | Norton, Judith Salmon
1649 | St Albans, Sarah Smith
1649 | St Albans, Anne Smith
1650 | King's Lynn, Dorothy Floyd
1650 | Cambridge, Jane Phillips
1651 | Colchester, John Lock
1653 | Nevendon, Mary Hurst
1659 | Little Hadham, Alice Free
1659 | Norwich, Mary Oliver
1664 | Lowestoft, Rose Cullender
1664 | Lowestoft, Amy Duny
1665 | Dunwich, Aubrey Grinset
1694 | Hartest, Philippa Munnings
1699 | Coggeshall, Widow Coman
1712 | Walkern, Jane Wenham
1751 | Long Marston, John Osborne
1751 | Long Marston, Ruth Osborne

A COVEN
A GROVE
A STAND

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8 February — 22 April 2019
Firstsite, Colchester, UK