

# Entertainment! Post Punk, New Wave and Authenticity

As the punk movement gathered pace in the late 1970s, with ‘new wave’ groups hitting the charts and pumping some life into a previously moribund music industry, music critics and journalists struggled to find an alternative term for another strand of the story. These groups operated beyond what was by now seen as ‘traditional’ punk, but were still too new, too left-field, too edgy, or simply too uncommercial to sit comfortably under the new wave umbrella. ‘Post punk’ groups drew upon the creative spirit of the early years together with the eclecticism of the DIY punk scene, while reaching out to other genres and styles for creative influence. Retrospectively, an even greater divide has been created between commercial new wave and a supposedly more ‘authentic’ post punk genre by historians and critics of popular culture and subcultures – though such distinctions can become blurred when subjected to critical analysis.

This exhibition explores the graphic ephemera produced for a range of artists across the new wave and post punk canons – and along with the accompanying symposium postulates whether such a clear distinction can be made in terms of aesthetics, production and design. Posters, record sleeves, flyers, badges and other graphic material by designers and design groups including Peter Saville, Malcolm Garrett, Mike Coles, Barney Bubbles, Peter Christopherson, Bob Last, Jon Langford, Spizz, Final Solution, Bill Smith, Jill Mumford, Poly Styrene, Russell Mills, Savage Pencil, Terry Jones, Rocking Russian, Hipgnosis and Stylorouge demonstrate the breadth and diversity of visual approaches employed to reflect the developing subculture.

Lower St Gallery

floor plan

275 m<sup>2</sup>

 = power point

5.9 m

2.94 m

1.07 m

1.78 m

4 m

SU Bar

07

07

95

84

07

07

07

08

03

07

95

84

07

07

07