

***CAN DO: Photographs and other material from the Women's Art Library Magazine Archive***

Curated by Mo Throp and Maria Walsh

**Private view: Tuesday 17 November, 6-8.30pm**  
**Exhibition continues: 18 November – 18 December 2015**



Four covers of the Women's Art Library magazine, courtesy of the Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths, University of London

CHELSEA space is pleased to announce ***CAN DO: Photographs and other material from the Women's Art Library Magazine Archive*** as the next exhibition in our autumn 2015 programme. Selected by **Mo Throp** and **Maria Walsh**, this collection of mainly black and white photographs from the Women's Art Library Magazine archive has rarely been seen outside the confines of its black boxes in the Special Collections at Goldsmiths University library. The photographs are one of the material remains of a dynamic independent art publication dedicated to the debates and documentation of women's art from 1983 to 2002.

The magazine began life in 1983 as the *Women Artists Slide Library Newsletter*, acquiring, over the course of its 20-year run, the titles: *Women Artists Slide Library Journal* (1986); *Women's Art Magazine* (1990); and *make: the magazine of women's art* (1996). Artists submitted photographs of their work for publication, some images were printed in the magazine, most were not, but all were carefully stored in the library stacks at Goldsmiths where the curators were (re)introduced to them by **Althea Greenan**, curator of the Women's Art Library in Special Collections at Goldsmiths as they researched material for their recent book, *Twenty Years of MAKE Magazine: Back to the Future of Women's Art* (I.B. Tauris: 2015).

Taking this photographic h(er)story out of the archive, this exhibition speaks to a present fascination with women's art of the recent past. What memories, what future can be intimated from these photographic fossils? As well as the photographs, which have been organised into thematic sections entitled: Performance, Portraits, Body, Installation, Protest, the exhibition is comprised of other materials from the archive, including artist's originals commissioned for the covers and pre-digital layouts and includes a vitrine of objects from the collection selected by **Althea Greenan**.

With thanks to the Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths, University of London.

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**Maria Walsh** is Senior Lecturer in Fine Art Theory at Chelsea College of Arts. She is also a writer, and author of *Art and Psychoanalysis* (I.B. Tauris, 2013), as well as many articles on artists' moving image. She is currently guest editor of 'Feminisms', the forthcoming issue of *MIRAJ* (Moving Image and Art Review Journal).

**Mo Throp** is Associate Researcher at Chelsea College of Arts. She is also an artist and writer. She was Chair of the Trustee Board of the Women's Art Slide Library from 1994-1997.

Together they convene the *Subjectivity & Feminisms Research Group* at Chelsea.

**The Women's Art Library** was originally set up as the Women Artists Slide Library in the late 1970s, with the main purpose of providing a place for women artists to deposit unique documentation of their work. This artists' initiative developed into an arts organisation publishing catalogues, books and a magazine (which includes the MAKE serial publication titled *The Women Artists' Slide Library Newsletter*, *The Women Artists' Slide Library Journal*, *Women's Art Magazine* and *make, the magazine of women's art*), from 1983 to 2002. In 2004 the research resource became part of Goldsmiths College Library Special Collections. As part of Goldsmiths Library Special Collections, the Women's Art Library continues to collect slides, artist statements, exhibition ephemera, catalogues, and press material in addition to audio and videotapes, photographs and CD-Roms.

**Ends**

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#### **Publication**

As with each exhibition at CHELSEA space, a new illustrated publication will accompany the show.

#### **Press Information**

For further information, images or to discuss interviews please contact:

Karen Di Franco or Cherie Silver at CHELSEA space via email [info@chelseaspace.org](mailto:info@chelseaspace.org) or tel:020 7514 6983

#### **Notes to Editors**

- **Images and further information** are available upon request
- **About: CHELSEA space** is a public exhibiting space, sited on the Millbank campus of Chelsea College of Arts, where invited art and design professionals are encouraged to work on experimental curatorial projects. See: [www.chelseaspace.org](http://www.chelseaspace.org)

- In copy please refer to **CHELSEA space** and not 'The Chelsea space.'
- **Gallery opening times:** Wed - Fri: 11:00 – 17:00 and by appointment.
- **Private view:** Tuesday 17 November 2015, 6-8.30pm
- **Admission Free**
- **Chelsea College of Arts** is one of the world's leading art and design institutions.
- Located at Millbank, next door to Tate Britain, Chelsea specialises in Fine Art, Graphic Design and Interior and Textiles Design. Since its origins in the 19th century, the College has produced many of the greatest names in the arts, including: Quentin Blake (illustrator and author) Ralph Fiennes (film and stage actor), Anish Kapoor (sculptor), Steve McQueen, (artist), Chris Ofili (artist), Alan Rickman (film and stage actor), Alexei Sayle (comedian) and Gavin Turk (sculptor).

Operating at the heart of the world's creative capital, **University of the Arts London** is a vibrant international centre for innovative teaching and research in arts, design, fashion, communication and the performing arts. The University is made up of six Colleges: Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, Chelsea College of Arts, London College of Communication, London College of Fashion and Wimbledon College of Art. Renowned names in the cultural and creative sectors produced by the University include 12 Turner prize winners and over half of all nominees, 10 out of 17 fashion designers named British Designer of the Year, more than half of the designers showcased in London Fashion Week and 12 out of 30 winners of the Jerwood Photography Award.