

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Liberties***

**An exhibition of contemporary art reflecting  
on 40 years since the Sex Discrimination Act  
curated by Day+Gluckman**

**The Exchange 22 Oct 2016 - 07 Jan 2017**

*Liberties* presents a snapshot of the evolving conversations that have contributed to the mapping of a woman's place in British society through work by 24 artists. Film, photography, sculpture, performance and painting reflect personal and political issues and changes in art practice in the 40 years since the introduction of the Sex Discrimination Act in the UK.

Some artists confront issues that galvanised the change in law whilst others carved their own place in a complex and male dominated art world. Including work by seminal artists Helen Chadwick, Rose English, Rose Finn-Kelcey, Alexis Hunter and Jo Spence, reflecting the radical feminism of the 1960s and 70s, *Liberties* spans four decades to the current fourth wave of social media inspired feminism. Active in the 70s Margaret Harrison continues to explore the economic issues affecting women, from the women's labour movement to militarisation, and more recently mainstream representations of female beauty.

From performances, both live and documented, including works by Monica Ross and Helena Goldwater, through to film, photography and objects, the exhibition notes the complexities inherent in the personal and public discussions around the portrayal of the female body, ageing, shifting ideas of beauty, femininity and the values of production. New work for *Liberties* sees Helen Barff casting the spaces where you might hold a child - on your hip, lap or shoulder - whilst Sarah Duffy creates an astonishing rendition of a Marilyn Monroe song through the practice of 'belly speaking', now more commonly known as ventriloquism.

Investigating language Sonia Boyce looks at the subjectivity of archiving and memory: the categorization of people that is beyond their control. For *Liberties* a wallpaper work from her 'Devotional Series' covers the Ramp Wall, listing names of black women involved in the music industry gathered from the general public.

The curators do not presume to have surveyed the past 40 years of women's art practice, but to consider the intervening years since a significant equalitarian law was introduced, and to remind ourselves of what has been fought and won over the years, and what there is still to do.

**Guler Ates, Helen Barff, Sutapa Biswas, Sonia Boyce, Jemima Burrill, Helen Chadwick, Sarah Duffy, Rose English, Rose Finn-Kelcey, Alison Gill, Helena Goldwater, Joy Gregory, Margaret Harrison, Alexis Hunter, Frances Kearney, EJ Major, Eleanor Moreton, Hayley Newman, Freddie Robins, Monica Ross, Jo Spence, Jessica Voorsanger, Alice May Williams and Carey Young**

The Exchange, Princes Street, Penzance TR18 2NL 01736 363715  
[www.newlynartgallery.co.uk](http://www.newlynartgallery.co.uk) @newlynexchange #libertiesexhibition

**ENDS**

For further PRESS information or images please contact  
Kathy Hill, Marketing Officer [kathy.hill@newlynartgallery.co.uk](mailto:kathy.hill@newlynartgallery.co.uk)

## Notes to Editors

### Exhibition background

2015 marked 40 years since the introduction of the Sex Discrimination Act in the UK: a law that aimed to change the landscape of our society. Curators Day+Gluckman have been exploring this theme as part of their project *A Woman's Place*, currently in its research phase.

*Liberties* was first exhibited at Collyer Bristow Gallery, London 2<sup>nd</sup> July – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

Curators: Lucy Day & Eliza Gluckman [www.dayandgluckman.co.uk](http://www.dayandgluckman.co.uk)

### Artists

- Sonia Boyce exhibited in '*All the Worlds' Futures*' curated by Okwui Enwezoo for the 56<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale.
- Margaret Harrison is represented by Ronald Feldman Gallery, New York and Silberkuppe, Berlin. *Last Gaze* was purchased by MIMA following the solo exhibition of the artist's work at the gallery in 2015 – 2016. The work has been generously loaned by MIMA for *Liberties*.
- Camden Arts Centre presented a solo retrospective exhibition of work by Rose English at December 2015.
- Works by Helen Chadwick, Rose English, Rose Finn-Kelcey, Alexis Hunter and Jo Spence are exhibited courtesy of Richard Saltoun Gallery.
- Works by Monica Ross are Courtesy of the Artist's estate and England & Co. Gallery.
- Carey Young is represented by Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.

### Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange

For over 120 years, Newlyn Art Gallery has been bringing the best in contemporary art to audiences in the south west. In 2007 the gallery was redeveloped and we opened a second venue, The Exchange in Penzance. With two venues we are able to offer a wide and varied programme across two sites, showcasing the very best of national and international contemporary art, as well as work by some of the best artists currently working in the region.

### Day+Gluckman

Day+Gluckman are a curatorial partnership who have worked together over 10 years, curating over 30 exhibitions and commissioning new work. They programmed Collyer Bristow Gallery in Holborn, London, for 7 years and have worked with arts and heritage organisations including museums and the National Trust. Since 2015 they have run *A Woman's Place* project that aims to question and address the contemporary position of women in our creative, historical and cultural landscape. It is inspired by an urgent desire to relocate the simple message of female equality into the cultural fabric of today.