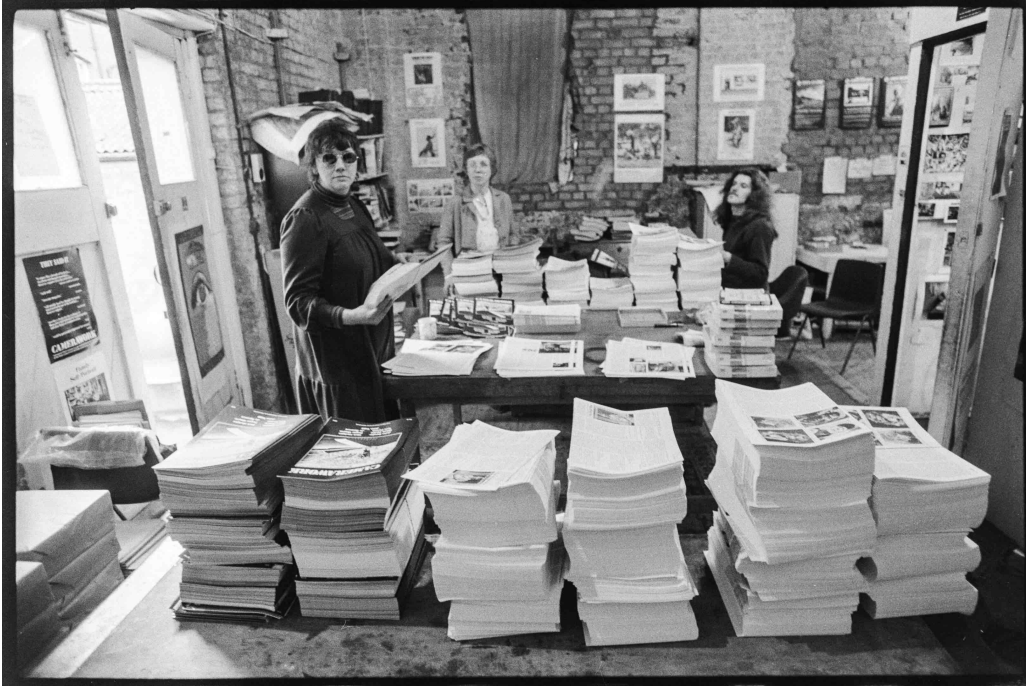


Press Release: for immediate use
3 May 2018

Radical Visions of 1970s and 80s film and photography revealed in new exhibition



Camerawork magazine folding session with Jo Spence, Shirley Read and Ed Barber.
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FOUR CORNERS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE ITS MAJOR NEW EXHIBITION ***Radical Visions*** AND ARCHIVE WEBSITE launching Friday 15th June at Four Corners Gallery, Bethnal Green.

The exhibition provides a rich source of interest for understanding the 1970s and 1980s culture of radical film and photography that engaged with feminism, anti-racist protest, community activism and political struggle, and documented working class life and conditions.

It tells the fascinating story of Four Corners and Camerawork, two innovative cultural organisations characteristic of the radical 1970s and early 80s, whose work aimed to ‘demystify’ the process of film and photography and influenced a generation of practitioners. This included the renowned *Camerawork* magazine, and Four Corners’ work with local, underprivileged young people like Lil Warren and Ruhul Amin, who went on to have impressive careers in the arts.

It will include archive material and photographs from Daniel Meadows, Nick Hedges, Peter Kennard, Mike Goldwater, Paul Trevor, Jenny Matthews, Ed Barber, Jo Spence, Susan Meiselas and

many others, alongside exhibition posters, extracts from Four Corners' films Nighthawks, Bred and Born and A Kind of English, oral histories and an accompanying public talks programme. The collection's visually inspiring and socially engaged material offers strong appeal to new, younger audiences.

A new digital archive launches alongside the exhibition, bringing this little-known part of British cultural history to general audiences for the first time. This includes all 32 issues of the renowned *Camerawork* magazine made available online for the first time.

Loraine Leeson, Chair of Four Corners and early *Camerawork* contributor says: *"I am delighted that this significant work is at last being documented and made available to the wider public. The impact that Four Corners and Camerawork had on the UK's independent film and photography sectors cannot be underestimated. Their work enabled many people from underprivileged and non traditional backgrounds to develop significant artistic work."*

Four Corners Archive project is made possible by a grant of £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Over 50 volunteers have contributed to the project since 2016, gaining skills in archive research, digitization and oral history techniques.

Stuart Hopley, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund London, said: *"Thanks to National Lottery players, this exciting project will explore and digitise an archive of work relating to 1970s and 1980s East End film and photography. HLF is pleased to support Four Corners as it strives to make the British history of community-arts movements more accessible to audiences."*

Notes for editors

For all Press and PR enquiries please contact : Zena Howard, zena@projectzah.co.uk

About Four Corners Archive

Four Corners is a centre for film and photography, which supports learning, skills, production and exhibition. In 2016, the organization was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to explore and document the early work of Four Corners and *Camerawork* 1972-1987. The Four Corners Archive project culminates in Summer 2018 with the launch of the new digital archive and exhibition, and a public talks programme with Birkbeck, University of London. The archive includes sixteen films, 130+ posters, 1000+ photographs, 40+ recordings, 32 issues of *Camerawork* magazine (1976-85) press cuttings and correspondence.

Four Corners was founded by four filmmakers - Joanna Davis, Mary Pat Leece, Ron Peck and Wilf Thust, who aimed to: "bring films and filmmaking to those who had previously been excluded from the whole practice". In Roman Road, Bethnal Green they set up a film workshop and cinema, screening films to local audiences. Joined by scriptwriter Paul Hallam, editor Richard Taylor and filmmaker Lis Rhodes, their early films documented diverse communities: East End working-class women, first generation Bangladeshis and London's gay community. One of the earliest film workshops in Britain, it was part of a broad oppositional film culture that promoted 'independent' filmmaking, supporting emerging filmmakers such as Carol Morley, director of *Dreams of Life*.

The Half Moon Photography Workshop (later Camerawork) was gallery and workshop project created by a group of photographers in the 1970s, including Wendy Ewald, Ron McCormick, Paul Trevor, Mike Goldwater, Jo Spence and Terry Dennett. They began publishing the highly influential *Camerawork* magazine in 1976, which, alongside the development of pioneering laminated touring exhibitions, brought an extraordinary range of photography to UK and worldwide audiences. Their innovative approach drew on the social and political upheavals of the time, engaging with renowned photographers such as Bert Hardy, Roger Mayne, Nigel Henderson, Martin Parr, Chris Steele-Perkins, Daniel Meadows, Nick Hedges, Jo Spence, Susan Meiselas, Karen Knorr, Anna Fox, Ed Barber and Peter Kennard among many others. Baroness Beeban Kidron had a photography exhibition there as a teenager in 1974. Their work had a significant impact on the way in which a generation of practitioners looked at the world.

For 20 years both organisations were based on Roman Road, just two doors apart. When Camerawork closed in 2000, Four Corners successfully tendered to the Arts Council to reopen the photographic resource. Today Four Corners supports learning, skills, production and exhibition in both film and photography.

Four Corners digital archive launches on 14 June 2018 <http://www.fourcornersarchive.org>

Radical Visions: the early history of Four Corners and Camerawork 1972-1987

Exhibition at Four Corners Gallery

15 June - 22 September 2018

Tues-Sat: 10.00-6.00, Admission free

121 Roman Road, London E2 0QN

Nearest tube: Bethnal Green, Central Line

Radical Visions - symposium

Thursday 28 June at Birkbeck University. The symposium will engage with oppositional film and photography practices emergent in the 1970s, the early history of Four Corners and Camerawork and the legacy of their work. Details of further talks and study days during the exhibition:

<http://www.fourcornersarchive.org>

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

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