

**PRESS INFORMATION | 23 MAY 2014**

**06-28 JUNE**

**FILM/FEMINISM/IDENTITY/ACTIVISM: LOOKING OUT FROM THE CCCS**

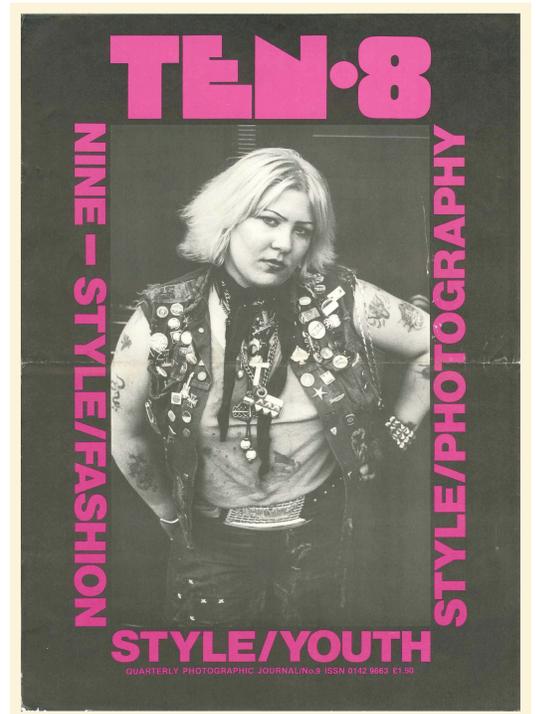
**Vivid Projects presents a snapshot into four decades of alternative Birmingham culture. Join us for this month-long season of exhibition, provocations and events investigating the impact of University of Birmingham's Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (CCCS).**

Founded by Richard Hoggart in 1964 and later directed by Stuart Hall, the Centre broke down barriers between staff and students and made 'pop' culture – pop music, television programmes, fashions – critical.

*Looking Out From The CCCS* makes connections between 70s Birmingham culture and the present day, by way of alternative publications and community action print, film workshops and style magazines, and contemporary artists working with social media and data.

A series of weekly events will critically engage with the exhibition and explore the key themes in a contemporary context. Artists, writers, social networkers, cultural provocateurs, new young feminists, archivists and more will be unpicking the astonishing cultural legacy of the CCCS.

**The exhibition launches Friday 06 June, 6-10pm with a SUPERSTYLING! party for Digbeth First Friday.**



Ten-8 magazine / No.9 / 1982.  
Courtesy of Brian Homer archive.

**Full events programme here:**  
[http://www.vividprojects.org.uk/  
programme/cccs-events/](http://www.vividprojects.org.uk/programme/cccs-events/)

**“How were dominant ideologies challenged? What were Stuart Hall and Salman Rushdie arguing about? Can pop music still be revolutionary? What’s so critical about street style?”**

The CCCS produced cultural provocateurs ranging from Stuart Hall to Paul Gilroy, Dick Hebdige and Angela McRobbie. Students from the centre collaborated with photographers, writers and designers to set up publications such as Grapevine, Birmingham Broadside and the seminal photography journal Ten-8, selected editions of which are included in the exhibition.

The collective and collaborative spirit of the CCCS was an innovation, and in the exhibition we look at how people connected and shared culture and politics pre-Internet. Examples of listings and advertisements reveal the rich alternative cultural scene of the 1970s-80s, whilst passionate critiques of establishment viewpoints argued in the pages of the alternative press provide insights to the political and social landscape of the period.

The three contemporary artists featured, all based in the Midlands, concern themselves with the social and political space they occupy. Ashok Mistry's installation consists of digital vector drawings, changing light and audio exploring the fetishisation of race and the struggle to reconcile 'difference'. Sarah Taylor Silverwood presents a section of her larger work, 'News in Briefs' which was developed from UK newspaper images collected over the last year. Emily Mulenga uses her own image to parody stereotypes in video works that question the construction of public personas through new media.

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**LOOKING OUT FROM THE CCCS  
EVENTS PROGRAMME:**

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**WEEK ONE**

**FRIDAY 6 JUNE | 6PM | VIVID PROJECTS  
LAUNCH: SUPERSTYLING!**

A month-long season investigating the impact of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies aka the 'Birmingham School' launches at Vivid Projects with a party celebrating style and identity.

**Admission free. This event is presented as part of [Digbeth First Friday](#).**

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**SATURDAY 7 JUNE | 11-4PM | VIVID PROJECTS  
WORKSHOP: SOME GIRLS 2014**

In response to the legacy of the 1980s Some Girls research project, *Some Girls 2014* is an exploratory workshop tackling the social issues, cultures, and concerns facing young women.

Led by photographic artist Kirstin Barnes and including a talk by one of the original Some Girls project workers, Carola Adams, this insightful and experimental session will merge ideas, art and social action to create works that speak volumes for young women. In association with Little Miss Creative - [wearelmc.com](http://wearelmc.com) with support from University of Birmingham.

**Advance tickets are £5 (+95p fee) and include lunch.**

**Book your ticket here: <http://somegirls2014workshop.eventbrite.co.uk>**

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## **WEEK TWO**

### **THURSDAY 12 JUNE | 7.30PM | THE VICTORIA, JOHN BRIGHT STREET DISCUSSION: HOW POPULAR IS POP MUSIC?**

Pop music has lost its power over the hearts and minds of the young. Chart hits have lost their era-defining quality. Everything from the collapse of NME sales to the rise of the reunion tour seems to indicate that British pop music has lost its way. Is it simply that we have exhausted the possibilities of the three-minute record and the thematically-unified album, or is there a broader malaise?

Some people point to the impact of digital technologies or blame X Factor. Others look at social trends, such as the seductive pull of nostalgia in all areas of cultural life, stay-at-home adults or the relentless war on public drinking and shared space. Others argue that reports of the demise of pop music may be much exaggerated. After all, music has always moved along with technological and social shifts, and today's pop hotspots, such as US cities Nashville and Austin, prove that the talent is still out there.

So is it business as usual for British pop music or does the lethargy at the heart of today's youth culture mean no more heroes anymore? Join Neil Davenport (music writer and teacher), Adam Regan (Hare & Hounds) and Stasys Slauteris (Birmingham Academy of Music and Sound) as they discuss whether pop music has lost its power. Convened by the Birmingham Salon.

**Advance tickets £5, available here: <http://www.birminghamsalon.org/>**

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## **WEEK THREE**

### **THURSDAY 19 JUNE | 6.30PM | VIVID PROJECTS SCREENING: BIRMINGHAM FILM AND VIDEO WORKSHOP**

A selection of rarely seen works from Birmingham's cultural history, collectively produced by the Birmingham Film and Video Workshop (BFVW). Selected by Professor Roger Shannon.

**Advance tickets £2.50 + 80p fee | Tickets £3.50 on the door.**

**Available here: <http://bfwscreening.eventbrite.co.uk>**

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### **FRIDAY 20 JUNE | 7PM | THE DRUM DISCUSSION: CITIZENSHIP, DEMOCRACY AND ACTIVISM**

In memory of Professor Stuart Hall, The Drum hosts a discussion on citizenship, democracy and

activism. Chaired by Professor Gurminder Bhambra, University of Warwick, the panel includes Professor Danielle Allen, Princeton, Professor John Holmwood, Discover Society and Dr Paul Warmington, University of Birmingham.

***Admission Free.***

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**SATURDAY 21 JUNE | 1-6PM | VIVID PROJECTS**  
**DISCUSSION: FILM/FEMINISM/IDENTITY/ACTIVISM**

Join Vivid Projects for an afternoon of informal illustrated discussions exploring the key themes of the exhibition and the CCCS legacy.

**1PM: THE FEMAIL PROJECT**

In 2013 artist/curator Emma Leppington curated hundred of images submitted by feminist artists worldwide in a quest to present a single collective image of 'feminism'. What does feminism mean to you? Convened by Emma Leppington & Mo White plus further contributors to be confirmed.

**2.30PM: BIRMINGHAM BROADSIDE**

A round table discussion looking at the aesthetics, politics and methods of grassroots media from 1970s to the present day. Convened by Brian Homer, Sarah Silverwood and Keith Dodds.

**4PM: WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS MAKE POPULAR POLITICS:  
THE BIRMINGHAM FILM AND VIDEO WORKSHOP**

The BFVW was a pioneering collective co-ordinated by CCCS post-graduate Roger Shannon and included members Jonnie Turpie, Alan Lovell and Heather Powell. This illustrated discussion situates the work of the BFVW in the socio-political context of the 1970s and 80s, the UK workshop movement and its relationship with the establishment of Channel Four Television. Convened by Roger Shannon, Professor of Film and Television at Edge Hill University and Paul Long, Professor of Media and Cultural History at Birmingham City University.

***Admission free, booking recommended. Reserve a place here:***

***<http://filmfeminismidentityactivism.eventbrite.co.uk>***

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**WEEK FOUR**

**THURSDAY 26 JUNE | 7PM | VIVID PROJECTS**  
**EVENT: SHOOP SHOOP – AN EVENING WITH DICK HEBDIGE AND MIKE HORSEMAN**

We are delighted to welcome Dick Hebdige for a talk on subculture in the 70s. Hebdige is renowned for his book [\*Subculture: the meaning of style\*](#) which remains one of the seminal studies of post-war British youth culture. For this event, he is joined by DJ and photographer Mike Horseman (ex Barberellas, Rum Runner and Holy City Zoo) with whom he co-ran the Shoop Shoop club night at The Golden Eagle pub.

***Advance tickets £5.95 (+ 95p booking fee). Book your ticket here:***

***<http://shoopshooptalk.eventbrite.co.uk>***

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**SATURDAY 28 JUNE | 2PM | VIVID PROJECTS**  
**WORKSHOP: FEAR OF BLACK SPACE**

In the making of *Fear of Black Space*, Ian Sergeant and Black Sauce Collective ask a series of questions using the establishment and abandonment of the Muhammad Ali Centre, Hockley, Birmingham as a motif. What did the building represent to the local community? Why does the space still cause anguish within the "black" community? How do you as an artist, your project, venue or organisation contribute to shaping the identity of a community, neighbourhood or the city?

Join Black Sauce (Ian Sergeant, Bobbie, Gardner and Faisal Hussain), Josephine Reichert (Ort Gallery), Yinka Danmole (The Loft) and others to share your experience of how your arts, cultural and regeneration activities are helping to transform the image of the city of Birmingham.

**Admission free, advance booking here: <http://fearofblackspacetalk.eventbrite.co.uk>**

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***All event details are correct at the time of going to press but we reserve the right to change the schedule.***  
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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

1. Vivid Projects is a collaborative agency dedicated to exploring the convergence of film, video, performance and interdisciplinary practice, and is based at 16 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5RS.  
[www.vividprojects.org.uk](http://www.vividprojects.org.uk)
2. FILM / FEMINISM / IDENTITY / ACTIVISM : LOOKING OUT FROM THE CCCS is curated by Vivid Projects as part of [CCCS50](#), a collaborative project between University of Birmingham and mac. Supported by The National Lottery through Arts Council England, and University of Birmingham. The Vivid Projects exhibition is dedicated to Michael Green, a key member of the CCCS and Board member of VIVID 1996-2003.  
<http://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/2011/feb/07/michael-green-obituary>
3. FILM / FEMINISM / IDENTITY / ACTIVISM : LOOKING OUT FROM THE CCCS is presented at Vivid Projects, 16 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5RS 6-28 June 2014, Thursday - Saturday 12-5pm. For event schedule, tickets and times, see [vividprojects.org.uk](http://www.vividprojects.org.uk)
4. Image credit: Ten-8 magazine / No.9 / 1982. Courtesy of Brian Homer archive.
5. Print archive copies of Grapevine, Birmingham Broadside and Ten-8 kindly loaned by Brian Homer.
6. For information on the programme and hi-res images please contact Programme Manager [laura@vividprojects.org.uk](mailto:laura@vividprojects.org.uk). Requests for interviews should be made to [yasmeen@vividprojects.org.uk](mailto:yasmeen@vividprojects.org.uk)

**Director/Curator: [yasmeen@vividprojects.org.uk](mailto:yasmeen@vividprojects.org.uk) | Programme Manager: [laura@vividprojects.org.uk](mailto:laura@vividprojects.org.uk)**

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