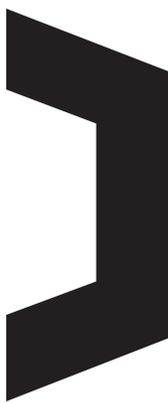




Stories of Women, Work and Uncertain Futures

Gallery 8

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Manchester Art Gallery



Stories of Women, Work and Uncertain Futures

8 March 2024 - 5 January 2025

Introduction panel

This is the third, and concluding, exhibition of Uncertain Futures, a five-year collaborative work combining art, research and activism. It explores paid and unpaid work by women over 50, focusing on gender, age, race, disability, class and migration. Created by women from Manchester's diverse communities with the US artist Suzanne Lacy, a pioneer of social practice art and community organising, it aims to create civic change and affect social policy.

A new three channel film highlights the multiple inequalities around work faced by women as they age. Excerpts from 100 interviews undertaken in 2021 are narrated within a theatrical space by a core group of project leaders. The layered voices and accounts verify the universality of these experiences. The film is shown alongside a project manifesto calling for change, a photograph of the 100 women interviewed and a documentary which outlines the research findings.

Uncertain Futures was developed with academics from the University of Manchester and Manchester

Metropolitan University. 14 women, all activists and leaders in their communities, formed an Advisory Group which met regularly over four years and participated in all decisions, research analysis and public events. Working collectively to advocate for policy change, they have identified and made public the many interconnected issues confronting older women and work. The findings of this unique, co-produced art and research project are now available.

If you are affected by the issues raised, there are some suggested resources for support on the gallery's website.

Credits

The Advisory Group is Akhter Azabany, Manchester resident, Erinma Bell, CARISMA Services, Sally Casey, Aquarius Tenants and Resident Association, Atiha Chaudry, GMBAMEN (Greater Manchester Black Asian Minority Ethnic Network), Rohina Ghafoor, MBMEN (Manchester Black Minority Ethnic Network), Marie Greenhalgh, Wythenshawe Good Neighbours, Teodora Ilieva, Manchester resident, Tendayi Madzunu, ZIWO (Zimbabwe Women's Organisation) Jila Mozoun Raha – Women's Voices, Elayne Redford, Work and Skills Manchester City Council, Nadia Siddiqui, Women's Voices, Circle Steele, Wai Yin Society, Patricia Williams, Neighbourhood Community Development Team, Manchester City Council and Louise Wong, Wai Yin Society.

Sincere thanks to the 100 women who so generously shared their stories with us.

The project was conceived and led by artist Suzanne Lacy with Ruth Edson, Learning Manager: Communities, Manchester Art Gallery. The Researchers are Dr Elaine Dewhurst, University of Manchester: School of Social Sciences and Dr Sarah Campbell, Manchester Metropolitan University: Faculty of Health and Education. The exhibition is curated by Natasha Howes,

Senior Curator, Manchester Art Gallery. The films were co-created with Mark Thomas, Soup Co.

Uncertain Futures has been funded by Manchester City Council, Arts Council England, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Manchester, Awards for All Community Fund, Evan Cornish Foundation and the Office of the Provost and Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Southern California.

100 Women 2022

Photographer Andrew Brooks

Photograph mounted on aluminium

100 women over 50 were interviewed about their experiences of work between June and September 2001. Researchers recorded these private interviews in a room within the first gallery exhibition. Subsequently the interviews were anonymised and exhibited in the second exhibition. In March 2022 the women who had been interviewed came together for a celebratory dinner at the gallery. This photograph captures them at the end of the evening. A film was made of the event.

100 Women: Finding solutions to their Uncertain Futures
2023

Suzanne Lacy, Mark Thomas and Alikhan Asadi, Soup
Co.

Documentary video, duration: 8 mins 19 seconds

This documentary was created with a focus on the research analysis of Uncertain Futures. It is being shared extensively to inform and shape policy as well as in community settings across Manchester to empower women to speak out about issues that impact them.

Film Credits

Camera: Alina Akbar, Finn Browning, Alikhan Asadi, Meg White, Nadia Moshkina, Louis Bailey, Jorge Walsh, Ami Gaur

Sound Recording: Zane Crowther, Morgan Wetherill, Morgan Mackenzie

Edit: Alihan Asadi, Maretha Ilves

Editorial assistants: Ruth Edson, Suzanne Lacy

Production: Mark Thomas

Her Uncertain Futures 2024

Suzanne Lacy and Mark Thomas, Soup Co.

3 channel video and sound, duration: 17 mins 23 seconds

This new film is the final artwork of Uncertain Futures. It features a core group of project leaders standing in a theatre space, reading excerpts from the interviews. 100 women over 50 from all walks of life were interviewed about their experiences of paid and unpaid work. The layering of inequalities attests to the many ways women face discrimination in Manchester and beyond.

If you are affected by the issues raised, there are some suggested resources for support on the gallery's website.

Film Credits

Artist: Suzanne Lacy

Director/Editor: Mark Thomas

Producer: Jackie Thompson

Director of Photography: Jenni Suitiala

Cameras: Finn Logan Browning, Nadezhda Moshkina, Alikhan Asadi

Production Team: Tim Hawes, Tracy Harper, Evan Wilson, Paul Meardon, Lucy Dean, Owen Massey, Al Boyd

Sound mix & audio post-production: Danny Evans

Colour Grade and post production: Soup Co

Installation design and AV technician: Shamus Dawes

With thanks to Z - Arts

A Soup Co. Production

Manifesto 2024

Designed by Office of Craig

Polyester tension textile

A participatory research team of academics and Advisory Group members co-analysed the anonymised interviews of 100 older women. They authored a report 100 Women (which you can read [here](#)) and developed key recommendations for action, creating a manifesto calling for change. The recommendations are sustainable, real and will change women's lives for the better. You can read the four main declarations [here](#) and the full manifesto with follow on endorsements and actions [opposite](#) – this is also available to take away or download from our website.

The research team was led by Dr Elaine Dewhurst, University of Manchester and Dr Sarah Campbell, Manchester Metropolitan University and includes Advisory Group members: Atiha Chaudry, Rohina Ghafoor, Marie Greenhalgh and Tendayi Madzunu. The manifesto was co-created with the use of the Manifesto Cards created by the Words in Freedom Project 2019 (Julian Hanna, Simone Ashby, Sónia Matos, Alexis Faria and Callum Nash).

Manifesto 2024

Designed by Office of Craig

Poster

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