

*artist talk*, 2020 – ongoing 'On request' artist talk for individuals and small groups online, which includes a bespoke cover made for the audience's screen(s) and posted to them in advance. Above: *to Kelly LLoyd*, November 2020, 13" MacBook laptop cover (body warmer, wetsuit fabric, book page) & 20 minute Zoom call.



draft schema (body warmer), 2020, airbrush ink, watercolour, body warmer, 552 x 764 mm



Because we love it so much

Online script readthrough and improvised conversation for up to twelve performers, 5th May 2020. Closing event for CAMP Writer Residency 2019–20, virtually hosted by 37 Looe Street, performing interior sound events as scripted. Everyone together voices Us; Rachel (UK) from naturalreaders. com voices It; other parts are voiced by each person in turn. Props: a cloth, sheet or item of light clothing to cover your screen, a sheet of paper, and pen or pencil.

37 Looe Street	[interior sound event]
Rosalie Schweiker	The joke, you know, I think Margaret Thatcher said,
Margaret Thatcher	"If you stop paying a business person they'll stop doing the work but an artist, you don't pay them and they'll do it anyway because they love it so much."
Us	We love it so much.
Margaret Thatcher	It is a matter of creating, of re-creating an atmosphere in which individual talent—and artists are invidiuals, above all—can not only survive but flourish, and feel at home
Us	[chins to chests] Feel at home.
It	[counting to 10]
Rosalie Schweiker Thev	[on 10] It's not an individual failing if you can't make a living and if you are making a living it's not an individual achievement.
It	Artists are individuals, above all.
Rosalie Schweiker	Thanks for coming out in the dark.

0	If I've understood the, what they're saying	
It	[counting to 10]	
They	[on 10] There is no outside.	
Wages Against Artwork	One is never "off the clock"	
0	On the other hand, I think there is a view.	
Artist/Worker/Misfit?	The concept of the artist as distinct from the worker relies on a myth of the artist but it is no less promising or problematic than the counter-myth of the worker that has recently gripped the social imaginary of the politics of art.	
It	artist	
They	[speaking over] worker	
It	artist	
They	[speaking over] worker	
Artist/Worker/Misfit?	The notion of the artist as neither artisan nor worker, neither wage labourer nor entrepreneur, holds out the possibility of 'misfitting'.	
It	Individual above all at home.	
Us	Hmmm	
Artist/Worker/Misfit?	Artist can be seen as precisely the name of that activity which does not fit.	
They	[without speaking, directs our attention away from our screens, clears throat to indicate resumption of readthrough]	
Us	They say it is love	
They	self-subsidising	
It	We say it is unwaged work	
They	Wages are not a cure for capitalism. The wage relation is always a problem.	
Us	In our own time.	
Artist/Worker/Misfit?	The project to insert the artist fully into the regime of labour and to cancel the chasm between the artist and the (waged, unwaged and domestic) worker is not only an endorsement of work in its current form	
0	[knocking-knuckle to hard surface-a handful of times]	
They	Sorry to interrupt.	
Us	erm	
0	I'm aware that	
They	one is never "off the clock"	
It	Oh	
Us	Oh yeah	
0	we're probably way beyond	
Us	It's half past eleven.	
0	I'm really aware that it's been hours	
They	Has it?	
Us	Oh yeah	

0	I feel quite, you know, kind of embarassed [pause]
Wages Against Artwork	Many artists are invested in the idioms of neoliberalism—whether knowingly or not.
Us	[inhale, exhale]
0	I'm embarassed listening back how unaware I am of how I'm using time and erm my romantic attachment to spending more time on working on something [pause] mean they were saying
They	You should be looking at your time.
0	Maybe writing it down to keep a note of it so you can have this kind of clarity about it.
Us	Not holding back
They	just keeping track.
0	They were saying that, like,
They	that's what we do, right?
Us	Because we love it so much.
0	But they were pointing out that I should re really thinking about how much time I'm spending. I haven't really done what, you know, kind of picking up on what they were saying
They	How are you spending your time?
Ø	I mean I was saying how I would use the residency to talk to people
They	Which people are you giving time to in these conversations?
When Time is Money	l interaction we make time.
They	Who are you listening to?
Us	In talking to one another we make time.
When Time is Money	Interaction is the source of asymmetry and with it the difference between past and future. It is a mark of the interactive generation of time that there can be no un- talking, no reversing of time thus generated.
The Problem With Work	Why do we work so long and so hard?
0	I am I feel so
It	SO

INTERMISSION

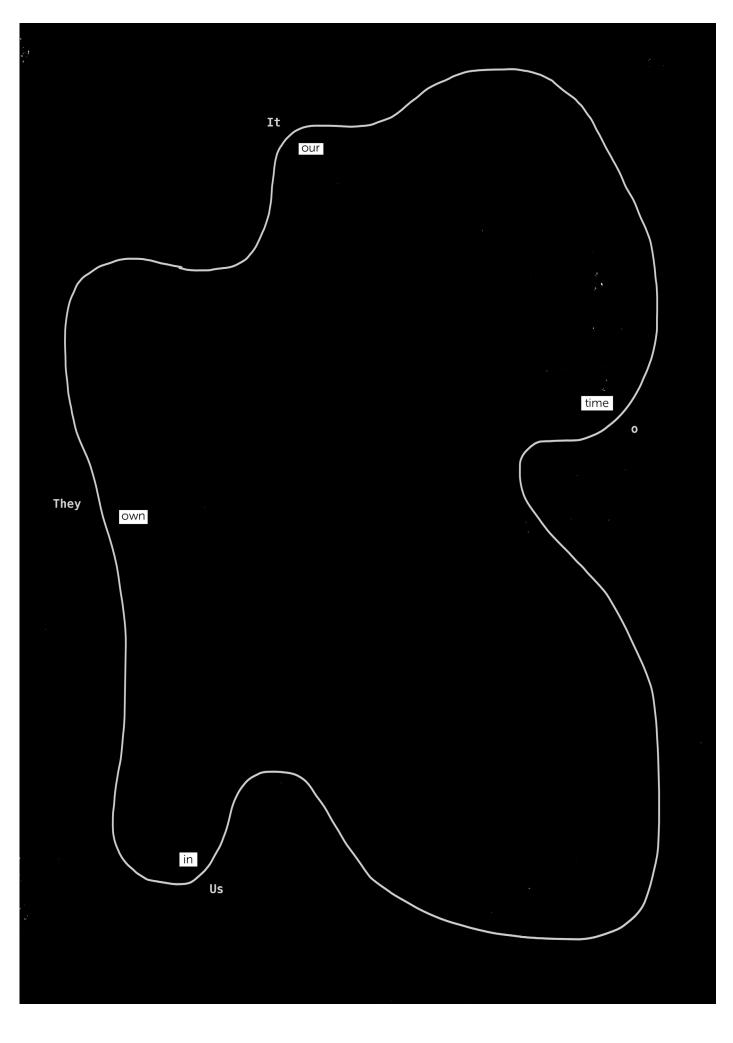
It

Please mute your microphone and cover your computer screen with a cloth. We will resume in 3 minutes.

It's lunchtime.

In the intermission, Eve will read a short text on performing anxiety to the soundtrack of her daughter singing in slow motion. We will resume with Plan C's question, 'When did you last have time that was truly free from work?', using the diagram to improvise conversation about our relationships with time and work.



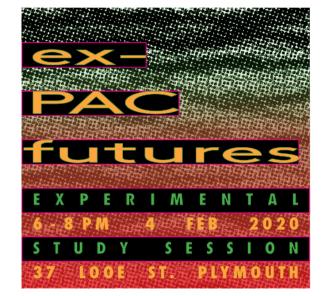


Because we love it so much + CAMP Writing Residency, Nov 2019-Feb 2020

The residency used conversation to research artists' livelihoods and artistic labour in conjunction with CAMP's visiting speakers series. This continued an approach to writing through conversation developed at Tate Modern researching Tate Learning's paper-based resources and their ways of working with artists, published in *In Site of Conversation* (2017).

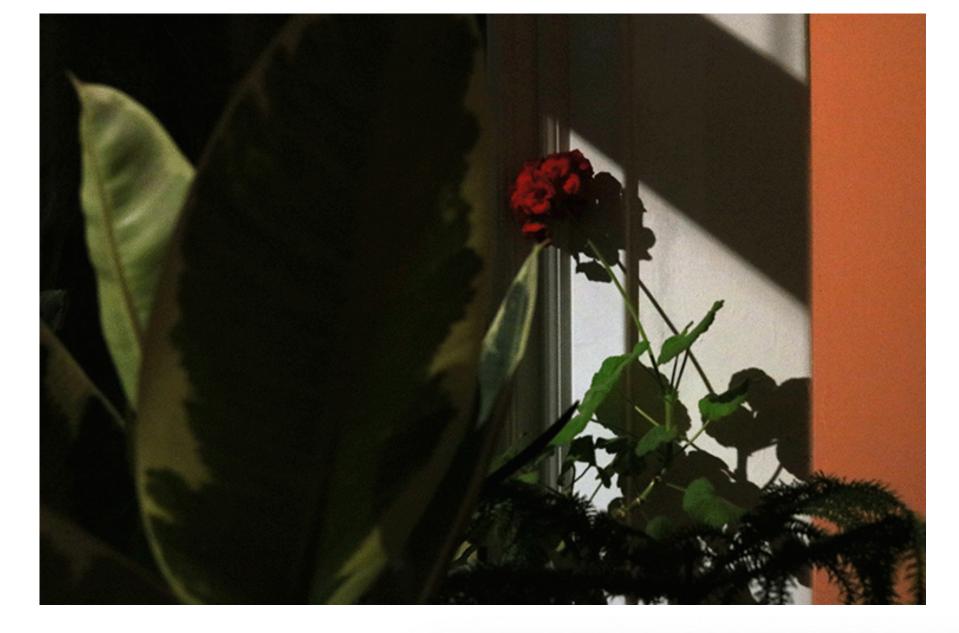
Because we love it so much is a script (excerpt above) written through quotation from books, interlocutors, and notes from the residency, which was performed online by a group during lockdown, and ended in a conversation using a diagrammatic score (left) and Plan C's question, 'When did you last have time when you were truly free from work?'.

https://youtu.be/4rKXyG587vw



Using improvisational sound, consciousness raising exercises, and vocal performance, the event gathered Plymouth-based artists and arts professionals to work with extracts of texts by the four speakers in CAMP's lecture series on artists' livelihoods, along with other texts, images and objects collected during the residency. The session critically and playfully explored what kinds of artist and forms of work a future Artist City might be shaped by, and how a 'Reading Group' might use utopian and dystopian visions to frame its purpose.





Night Plants (2020-2), twenty-four digital photographs and a text made as part of Inter-Intimacies, a John Fell funded collaborative research project, with Oreet Ashery, Onyeka Igwe, Jade Montserrat, Jaimini Patel, and Giulia Smith. Inter-Intimacies is a series of online conversations, correspondence, and texts, discussing, sharing, imagining, and enacting ways of constructing intimacy and care structures across distance and difference in the context of teaching.

### • • •

houseplants

After our second conversation, I thought about drawing house plants at night as a way of reflecting on breathing, growing, drawing. I think I'd mentioned that in the last weeks of my mother's life, I would sit beside her in the dark drawing her as she slept.

The year before, getting ready to give birth at home, I worried about how polluted the air might be in our flat. I'd heard that plants purify the air, so I began collecting houseplants for the windowsills.

When it came to it, I couldn't bring myself to sit with the plants and look in a sustained enough way to draw them. I checked online to see how plants cleanse the air indoors but found out that they don't. To affect air quality there would have to be so many plants there wouldn't be room for people to live amongst them. I also read that house plants 'breathe' at night like humans, taking up oxygen and giving out carbon dioxide, reversing their daytime patterns of respiration. It felt like photographing the plants at night living with us in our home, all of us rhyming inhaling and exhaling, might help me cultivate the stillness needed to eventually sit and draw them. But maybe I won't drawn them, I don't know.

Photographing them around midnight, even in low light from the hallway and street, the signs of stress and neglect are palpable. It's been good tending to them again.

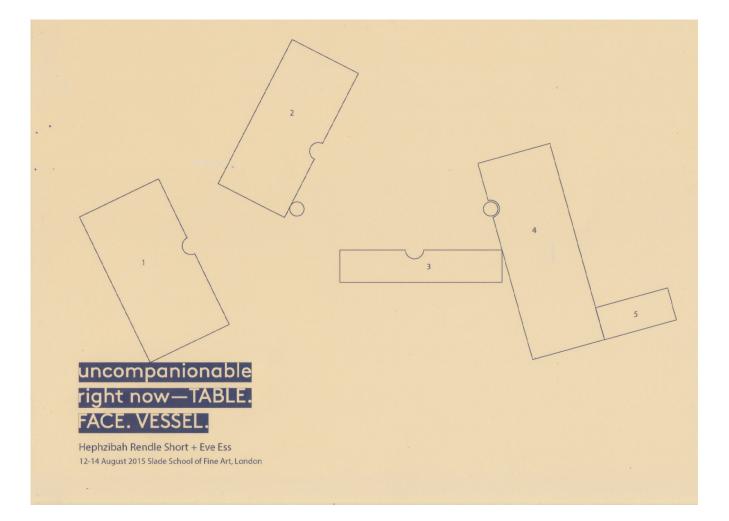




Above: Digital scans from *Piece by Piece*, ongoing project scanning miscellaneous belongings (shirts, shoulder pads, keyring etc.) left behind by my mother.

Right: Untitled (sleepmask), 2022/23, oil on gesso, 420 x 557mm



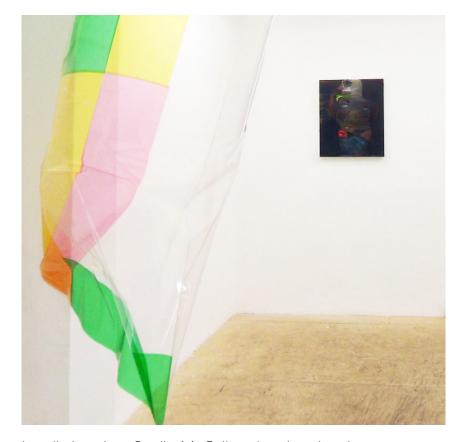




I AM IN TRAINING

uncompanionable right now, 2015, with Hephzibah Rendle Short, using the table as an organising principle for collaborative exhibition-making.

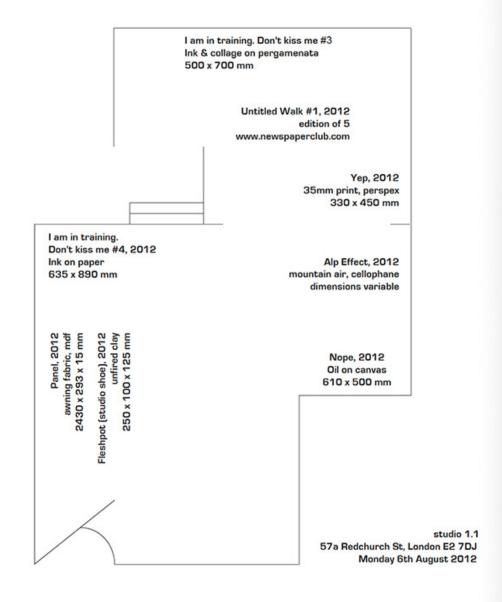
uncompanionable right now extended our work with the pedagogy of exhibition developed through writing and teaching the short Contemporary Painting course at Slade Summer School 2012-19.

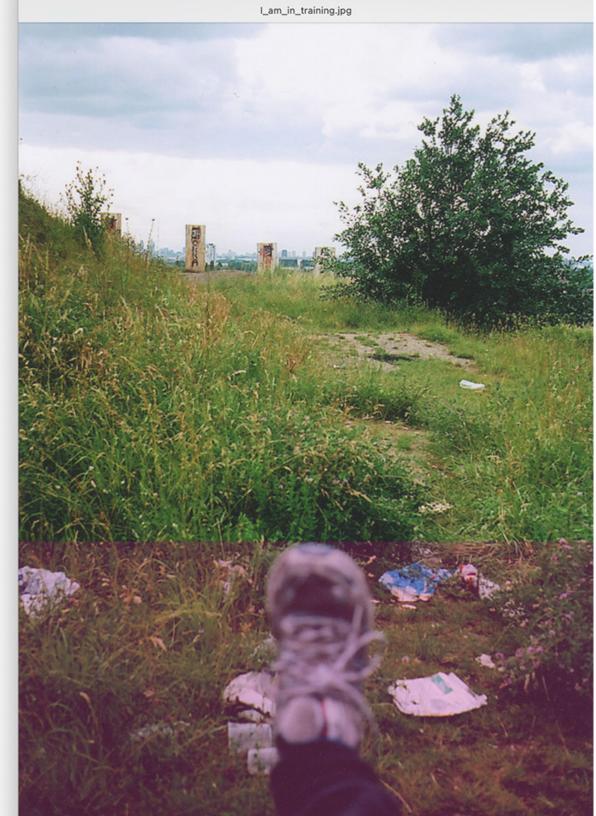


Installation view, Studio 1.1. Gallery, London showing: Alp Effect, 2012. Mountain air, cellophane, cellotape, dimensions variable. *Nope*, 2012, oil on canvas. 610 x 500mm

One-day, lightweight installation drawing on Claude Cahun's self-portrait as a weightlifter Untitled (Don't kiss me, I'm in *training*) 1927 and the romantic figure of the Alpinist to explore Beckton Alps, a disused dry ski slope built in the late 1980s on a toxic soil heap in East London.

Beckton Alp: highest peak in the region. Climb. Repeat. First person pronoun: exercise. A lightweight show: rollable, foldable, inflatable. 9 hours. WRITE\_

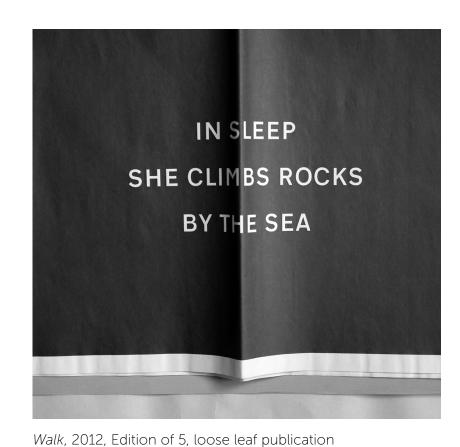




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Drift, HD Video, projection for performance reading of Walk, 2012, Royal College of Art.



#### **ROOM SETTING**

WALL SETTING • Habitat

Panel (fleurs des champs), 2012 MDF board, awning fabric, digitally printed fabric, drawing pins

300 x 221 cm I am in training. Don't kiss me, 2012 Oil on canvas, waxed rope, drawing board clips

61 x 50 cm Untitled, 2012 Oil on canvas 200 x 163 cm

Untitled (minor disaster of static), 2012 Oil on canvas 80 x 65 cm

TV SETTING . Motley

THAT IS WHAT I MEAN BY RAPPORT (Instalment: night iris), 2012 Digital photo frame, looped slideshow, scrap fabric cloak for Sony Trinitron TV Set with integral VCR Dimensions/duration variable

FLOOR SETTING . Studio

(pommes de terre), 2009 - 2012 Artificial apples from eBay Dimensions variable

Perch, 2012 Powder coated steal, leather, leatherette, foam, MDF board 45 x 60 x 165 cm



replay, 2022, gouache, watercolour, and graphite on card, 545 x 410 mm



Room Setting installation view, Royal College of Art, 2012





That is what I mean by rapport (Instalment: night iris), 2012. Looped slideshow, approx 3 mins.



Painting Backwards, 2009-2014 PhD, Royal College of Art

The installation Room Setting, and a set of paintings, objects, photographic images, and written scraps, formed the doctoral project Painting Backwards, which made attempts to companion *Weeping Woman* (1937) by Pablo Picasso via the eighties decorative scheme of my childhood bedroom and a copy of the painting by its sitter, Surrealist photographer Dora Maar, which trails off into blankness. The project took Dora Maar's aposiopetic gesture as a kind of instruction for treating painting's symbolic death, read through discussions of its pathological returns and various cures. Attempts to companion Pablo Picasso's painting involved gestures of fabrication, fictionalisation, quotation, annotation, loose association, and etiolated replication.

### EVE ESS ON DORA MAAR'S WEEPING WOMAN IN A RED HAT (C.1937)

'An elegant Parisian woman, who gives vent to an ocean of tears ... her eyes like tiny boats tossed on a turbulent sea': the caption written by David Lomas to Weeping Woman (1937) in the first art book I owned, a Phaidon monograph on Pablo Picasso. Returning to it I note the painting is cropped to the tips of the woman's hat; what is already proximal comes closer on the page. There I am in my preteens, laid out on the floor with open book. If I lingered over this painting, I thought, it would take me up into its sticky emulsion of colour and sentiment.

Anecdotally, Dora Maar is a person of excess, 'renowned for her long painted nails', a 'taste for startling outfits', outré hats. It's said that she is the face of the Weeping Woman. "For years I gave her a tortured appearance", recalled Picasso to another lover, "in obedience to a vision that had imposed itself on me". The sitter's legendary sartorial, emotional colour-darkened by her psychological breakdownmay have excited some of the painting's commentators. Refusing this tendency herself, Dora Maar painted a copy of Weeping Woman that is singular in its flatness. Her choices of stretcher the same size, drawing mapped carefully, colours applied by rote, suggest she set out to make a facsimile. Having worked primarily as a photographer, Dora Maar began painting in 1935. During a period of transition away from the camera, she painted several copies after Picasso's portraits of her as a weeping woman. In these she redefines an outline, alters the colour scheme or introduces a new decorative element, encouraging those who would see in these studies a project of defiant reclamation. ("I don't give, I take," Picasso would say to Françoise Gilot. But Dora knew here how to take back.'1) Such straightforward possessive intent is more difficult to read

Picpus issue 7, Autumn, 2011

into the version known as Weeping Woman in a Red Hat. Here there are no additions, only a measured thinning of the original. Picasso's dense, gloopy impasto is withdrawn, along with any allusion to Van Gogh's harrowed surfaces. Then halfway down the whole exercise in replication is abandoned. A lone, black, painted line descends through exposed underdrawing to acknowledge the bottom edge.

Dora Maar printed her signature prominently on the top right, endorsing this incomplete study as a finished statement. One that nevertheless falls short of any triumphal repossession of her image. What questions the painting has to ask are posed through an embrace of its precarious status as copy, its very slightness. The appeal of this insubstantiality is hard to place. Perhaps it recalls unbodied Echo, the nymph who in Ted Hughes's telling: ... cannot be silent

When another speaks. Echo who cannot Speak at all Unless another has spoken. Echo who always answers back.

Her curse constitutes an odd sort of excess, the repetition of parts. (Echo is condemned to repeat only the last words of another's statement.) In the exchange of views that took place between the artist-paramours in 1937, Dora Maar's partial reiteration of Picasso's painting apparently eschews the expressive point, tailing off into blankness.

When Weeping Woman hung in Roland Penrose's London home, Antony Penrose asked his father many times why the woman was crying. Roland replied that her child had been killed by bombs. His answer evades the significance of young Antony's recurring question: the source of the woman's sadness is not given in Picasso's painting. Viewers have rarely

studied this condition of absence. And, as if looking the other way, descriptions of Weeping Woman often project the imagery of deluge into those few, stiff tearstempest, river, ocean, sea. Against this background of overflow Dora Maar works at drainage. The adventure in copying itself appears to run out of energy, as if to signal that working through the sedimentary thickness of Picasso's painting will induce torpor.

Boredom, fatigue, are signifiers not of tragedy but melancholy, whose classic formula is sorrow without cause. Stories of the atrocity of Guernica or the sitter's personal turmoil are held at bay. Her shallow rendition offers just pencil marks on canvas behind the painted surface.

Fundamentally, it's hard to know what to make of Dora Maar's enigmatic reproduction. Though possibly with its altered horizon

an unusual space for speculation Weeping Woman in a Red Hat is cleared, one that dwells in the troublesome detail of Weeping Woman rather than opening out to the watery expanse.

 $61 \times 50$  cm Private Collection © ADAGP, Paris and DACS,

Dora Maar

Oil on canvas

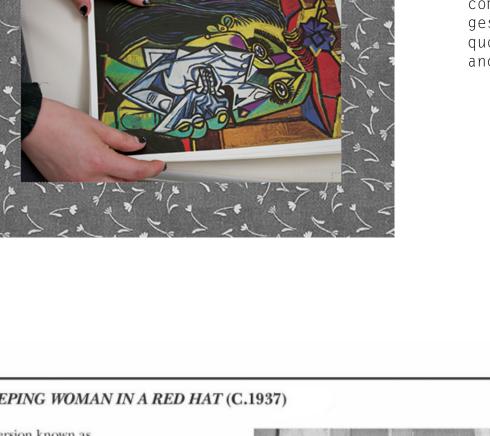
c.1937

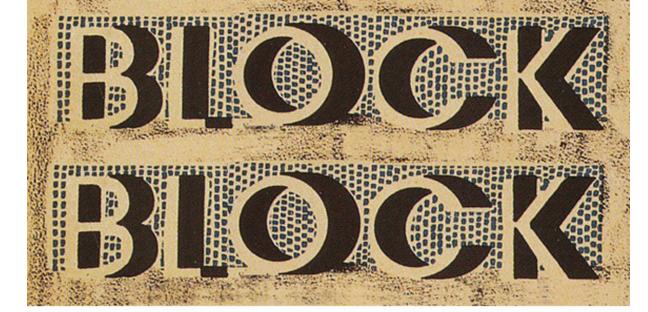
London

Dord Maar

1 Mary Ann Caws, Dora Maar with & without Picasso (Thames & Hudson, 2000), p127







#### BLOCK BLOCK

When doors are closed, sound echoes.

#### Flats, hallway, room.

MARGERY and THUG are going to visit. They'll be staying the night. I hope they like it. They've not met Rome before.

Introductions can be more or less informal.

Of course, others may come too, but then of course others may come too. JD 2010

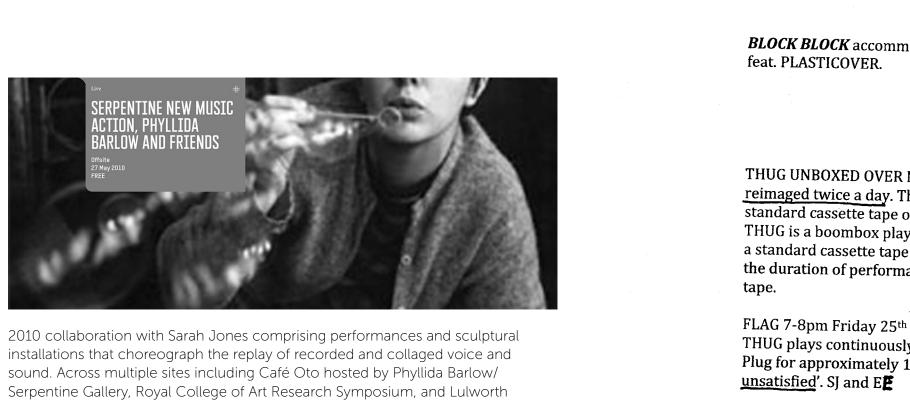
BLOCK BLOCK is a project hosted by Judith Dean with Sarah Jones & Eve at 17 Lulworth House, Dorset Road, London SW8 1DR (entrance in courtyard off Bolney Street) Tel: 020 7582 5519

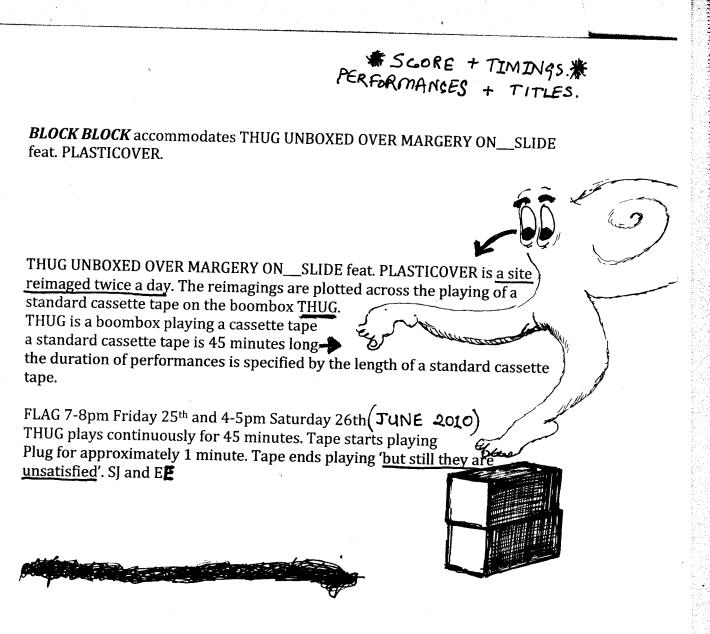
**Opening Times** – Friday 25th June 2-10pm and Saturday 26th June 10-6pm

> SERPENTINE NEW MUSIC ACTION, PHYLLIDA BARLOW AND FRIENDS

House, hosted by Judith Dean.

THUG playing -Friday 3-4pm and 7-8pm Saturday 12-1pm and 4-5pm Dragged scan and re-scan collage with lighting gel. Dimensions variable.







Habitat 1986 series, 2011/23. Scan collage with lighting gel. Dimensions variable.



## **CRITISM CRITNESS**

# Melt yourself onto an artist. Artists have white bags. Applaud intermittently.

Take the position of the artwork. Artworks have orange bags. You are only able to repeat what you hear.

When you repeat what you hear you must rock from side to side.

Lay it on thick.

Sarah Jones at Ruskin School of Art Proposed in response

workshop collaboration with

Critism Critness, 2019

to gender dynamics in group crits, the two-part workshop used 1960s feminist consciousness raising exercises, respeaking techniques, and collaborative enactment to create scripts for role-play that satirised art school power relations.