



THE
**CANS
FESTIVAL**

STENCIL ART STREET BATTLE
3rd 4th 5th May 2008

LONDON



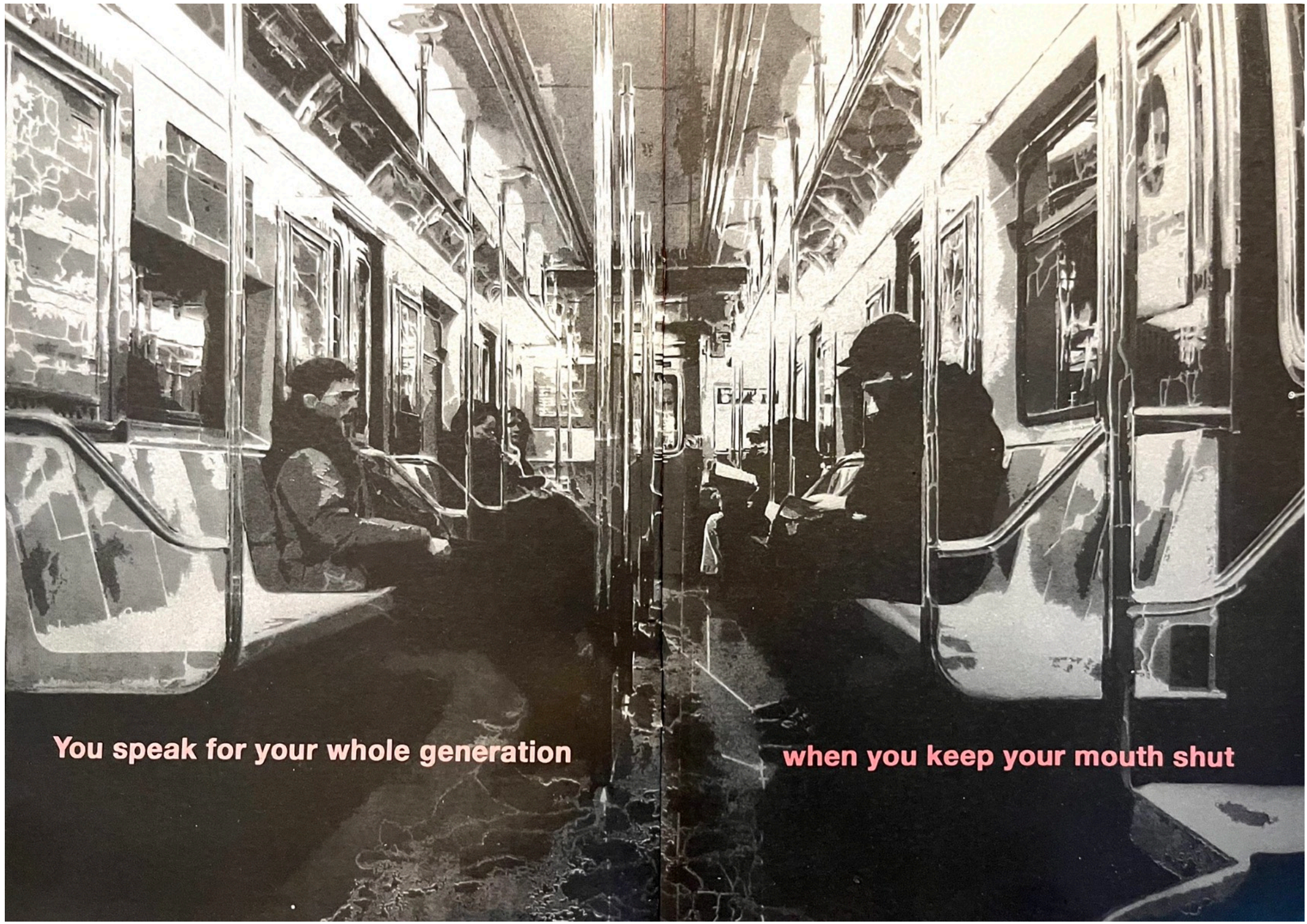
exclusively at House of Fraser 0870 160 7270

sinful lipstick, brown velvet eyeshadow, soft beige foundation introducing ck calvin klein beauty

Welcome to the
**CANS
FESTIVAL**

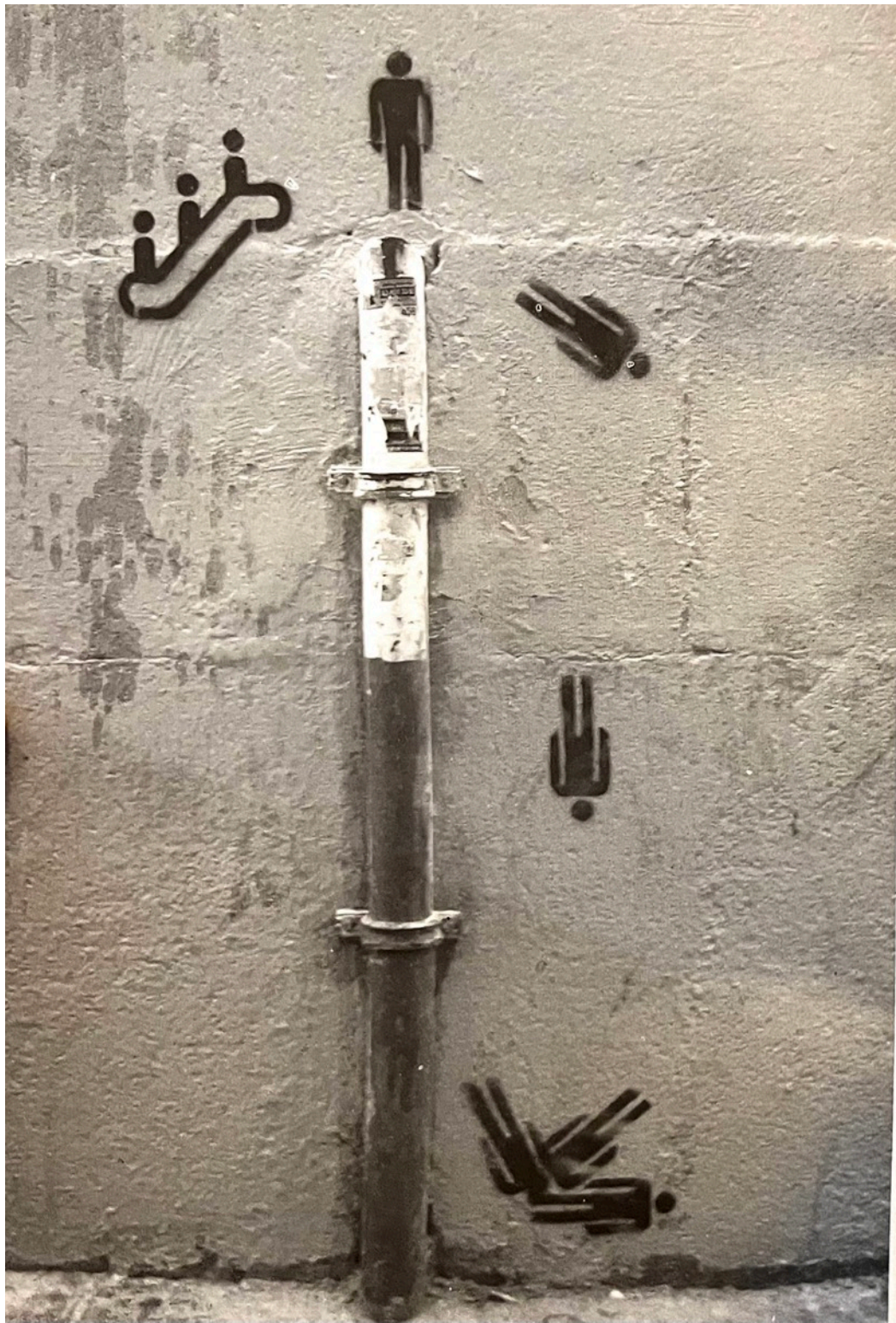


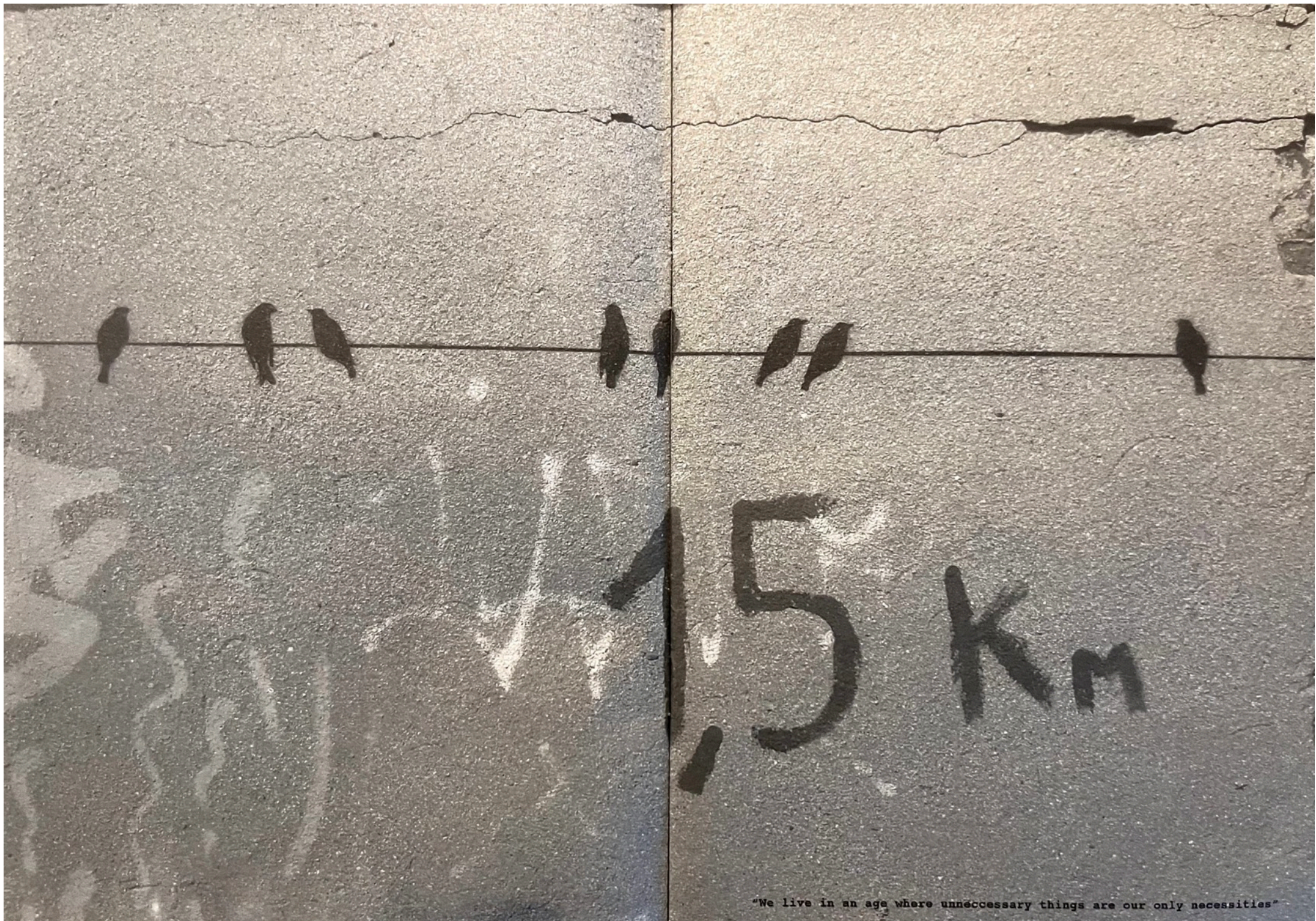
Now Wash your Hands



You speak for your whole generation

when you keep your mouth shut





"We live in an age where unnecessary things are our only necessities"

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS



Bsas Stencil
Argentina

Run Don't Walk
Argentina

James Dodd
Australia

civilian
Australia

Vexta
Australia

Prism
Australia

Daniel Melim
Brasil

Altocontraste
Brasil

Ananda Nahu
Brasil



Bandit
Netherlands

Roadsworth
Canada

Artiste-Ouvrier
France

Blek
France

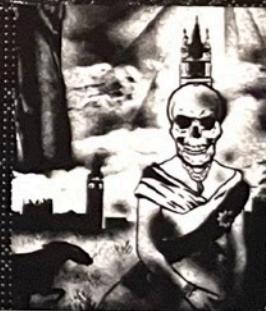
Sten
Italy

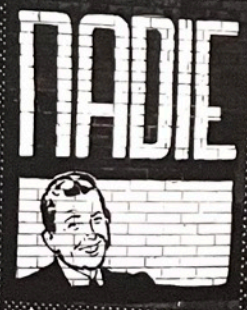
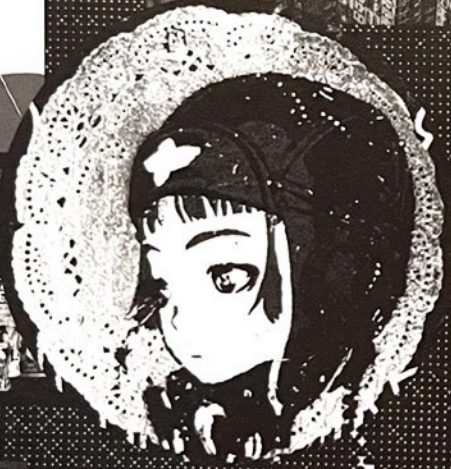
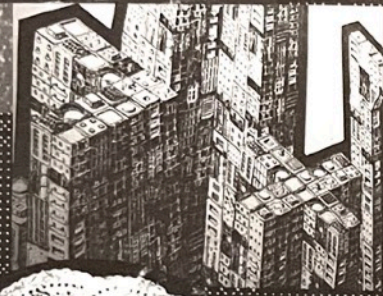
Lucamaleonte
Italy

Lex
Italy

Orticanoodles
Italy

Kaagman
Netherlands





Dolk

Norway

Faile

USA

Izolog

Brazil

John Grider

USA

Pobel

Norway

Logan Hicks

USA

M-City

Poland

Pure Evil

UK

Vhils

Portugal

Dot Masters

UK

Btoy

Spain

Banksy

UK

Nadie Crew

Spain

Dan

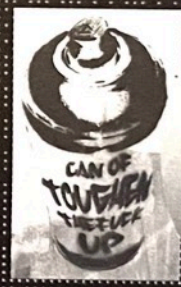
UK/Italy

Sam3

Spain

Eelus

UK



Please note:
This is an open event which will be added to daily, quite possibly by you.

Please report to reception before starting to work.

See blackboard for daily new arrivals



ONE NATION UNDER GUARD

In 2008 Britain is enjoying the most serious attack on personal freedom and privacy ever mounted during peacetime. Technological advances and changes to common law are threatening liberties we have held sacred for centuries, all of which is being met with barely a murmur of disapproval. Apparently if you've done nothing wrong then you've got nothing to hide, but if you've got nothing to hide then surely there's something wrong with you?

- There are over 4.2 million CCTV cameras in the UK, more than one for every 14 people.
- Over 600 agencies are now authorised to access personal records such as details of phone calls, emails and websites visited. These agencies include groups such as Local Authorities, the Charity Commission and the Marine and Coastguard Agency.
- In the year 2006/07 there were over 32,000 such interceptions. Less than 20,000 of these were by law enforcement agencies.
- All journeys undertaken on motorways and through town centres in the UK are recorded by the network of automatic number-plate recognition cameras with information retained for two years.
- The National DNA Database permanently holds the DNA details of nearly 4 million individuals - proportionally the largest in the world.
- 40% of black men in the UK have their DNA recorded on the database, compared to 13% of Asian men, and 9% of white men.
- You do not need to be charged with a crime to have your DNA recorded and it is an offence to refuse to do so.
- The National Identity Register is being formed as part of the ID card scheme and will form an audit trail every time you interact with the state, such as apply for benefits, use NHS services or enrol in education.
- The register will eventually contain information such as your medical records, school reports, and employment history. Information that the government has already announced it will sell to commercial companies.
- Laws introduced because of terrorism mean you can currently be detained without charge for 28 days. The Government wants to increase this to 42 days. Essentially abolishing the right to trial by jury (habeas corpus) which has been the foundation of British law since 1215AD.
- Under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act over 75,000 people were subjected to a "stop and search" last year in London alone. Less than 1% were arrested, the majority of these were for crimes unrelated to terrorism.

'It is poor civic hygiene to install technologies that could some day facilitate a police state'





I'm standing in the brown light of a cavernous bar, on the second level, looking down on the heads of the hundred or so below, while drinking beer that has been brewed on the premises.

Everyone is talking. People have come with friends and are talking with the friends they've come with. They're out with people from work. They're looking into the faces they see everyday and are saying things they've said a hundred times. Like me, they have in their hands beer that has been brewed on the premises.

Their mouths are moving, but their words are only groans, one continuous, monotonal groan, a sort of mooing, punctuated by the occasional squeal - 'Ohmygod!'

There's too many of them, of us. Too many, too similar. What are they all doing here? All this standing, all this standing and sitting, talking. There isn't even a pool table, darts, anything. Just this loitering, lolling, this drinking of beer in thick glasses.

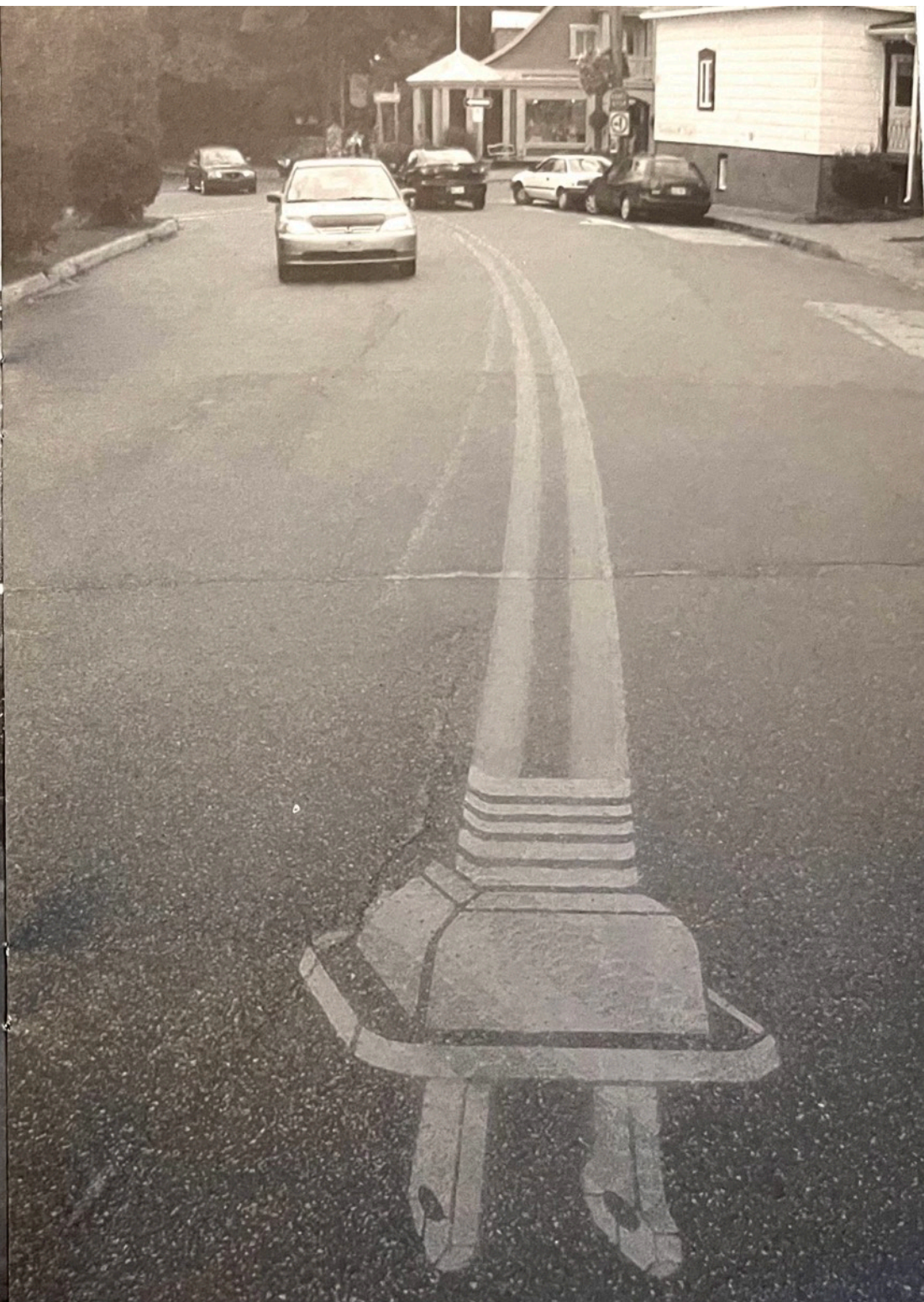
Something needs to happen. Something huge. The taking over of something, a building, a city, a country. We should all be armed and taking over small countries. Or rioting. Or no: an orgy. There should be an orgy.

All these people - we should close the doors and dim the lights and be naked together. That would make it all worthwhile, that would justify everything. We could move the tables, bring in some couches, mattresses, pillows, towels, stuffed animals

But this - this is obscene. How dare we be standing around, talking about nothing, not running in one huge mass of people, running at something, something huge, knocking it over? Why do we all bother coming out, gathering here in numbers like this, without starting fires, tearing things down? How dare we not lock the doors and replace the white bulbs with red and commence with the massive orgy, the joyous mingling of a thousand arms, legs, breasts?

We are wasting this.

What could we possibly be talking about?



Brian's

guide to

Modern Art



Brian Haw has been camped out in Parliament square for seven years protesting against the war. Last year the artist Mark Wallinger re-created every single one of his banners and placards in minute detail and exhibited it in the Tate gallery. In December it won the Turner prize.

So one minute you're living on a pavement minding your own business and the next you win the country's most prestigious art prize.

Was it a big party?

Everyone knows I don't drink.

I have eight sugars in my coffee and I like a roll-up.

What was your favourite part of the display?

'Face of the enemy in Kabul' it shows what depleted uranium does to children.

I saw that Hazel Blears on the grass for a photocall the other day. She said "I would love to debate this matter with you" so I say "YOU DO NOT DEBATE KILLING CHILDREN". Then a week later I'm up for an award at this 'Muslim Awards for Excellence' thing and in walks Hazel Blears so I shout over to her "YOU DO NOT DEBATE KILLING CHILDREN!!!"

Did you win the award?

No.

Do you like art?

Picasso is a load of fucking rubbish, apart from this one, I like this one. →

What bits of your display did you paint yourself?

I'm more of a curator really. I mostly painted the slogans in foreign languages. People would see it written in, say French and people would come up and write it down in their language for me to paint. Except the Chinese, I'd get them to do it themselves, they're a nation of born sign writers.

And then the police confiscated most of your display?

They turned up at four in the morning with no paperwork and flung it all in the back of a van. But now they know they have to give it back and it's worth a few quid they're a lot more careful with it. We got em to parade it round their yard in Hendon with white gloves on so we could photograph it all.

What advice would you have for anyone wanting to open their own impromptu street art gallery?

Bollocks. The Serious Organised Crime and Public Order act says I'm the only one allowed to speak here and I'm saying 'Bollocks'. You all have as much right to speak here as I have

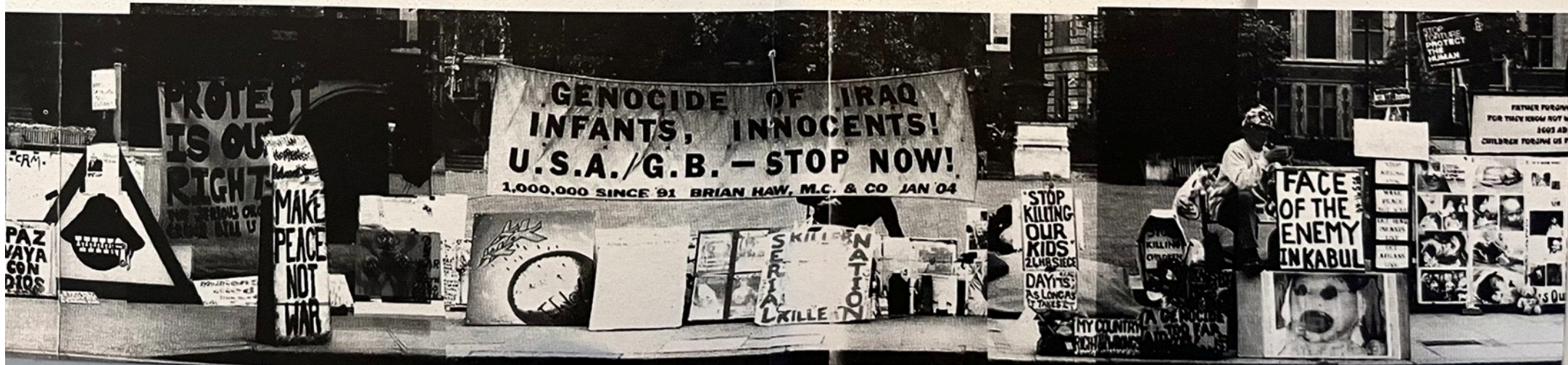


How are you dealing with the pressures of fame?

Well its annoying all these people coming up and asking the same questions all the time, you don't get to stop Gordon Brown and ask him silly questions, we're both busy men.

Would you autograph my 'State Britain' Brian Haw poster?

No.



There is surely a propensity for any machine, device or system that exists to be used - buttons are there to be pressed; triggers to be pulled; tellies turned on; lobotomies to be done etc. - but is it true in the wider sense, that what can be done will be done? It is easy to think of a contrary example. We have had the technology for a long time now to put a homosexual on the moon. But why would you? It's pointless. What would they do there? Collect rocks? Start a colony? Open a hairdressing salon? And set in the mind-shattering emptiness of the cosmos doesn't the nature of a man's sexuality seem at best ephemeral? How gays fare in space has seemed - up till now at least - an irrelevance to Nasa; perhaps even to humanity. How does the gay community itself feel about this? After the great strides of progress in civil rights from Stonewall onwards why not a small step further - if it is a right to be out on earth is it not also a right to be out, in outer space? A giant leap from the closet to the final frontier, to boldly go where no one has gone before, and sing: I am what I am...

Even science fiction films, which historically have presaged every great technological advancement from the time machine onwards, have failed to depict a believable gay character in orbit. Sure, there was Captain Kirk, with his penchant for wrestling, his corset wearing, and his twinkle-eyed come-ons to first officer Spock - but he was never openly gay or recognised to be so at the time; it is only now looking back that this seems obvious; likewise with Freddie Mercury from Queen. And in the case of Captain Kirk one cannot tell whether it is the character, or the actor behind the corset that is gay - or by extension, the entire collective male psyche of the united states; and me myself and I for that matter.

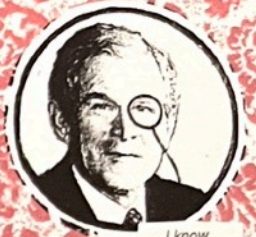
Of course statistically it is highly likely that one at least of the nearly five hundred humans that have so far ventured into space is or was homosexual. But if it were so it has not been recorded; as if it was unimportant - whereas Canadianness for example - or Canadaninity as I like to call it - is always mentioned; first Canadian in space... first Canadian woman in space... first use of Maple syrup in space... and so on. Are we to believe that being Canadian is more significant than being Gay? That the maple flag should eclipse the rainbow one? The truth is space travel is undertaken by huge industrialised nation states which have their own agendas; and the sooner the gay community wake up to this reality, stop lounging around in bars and begin their own space programme, the better. 'Rocket Man' sang Elton John. Yes - but that was thirty years ago, and what progress has been made in the interim?





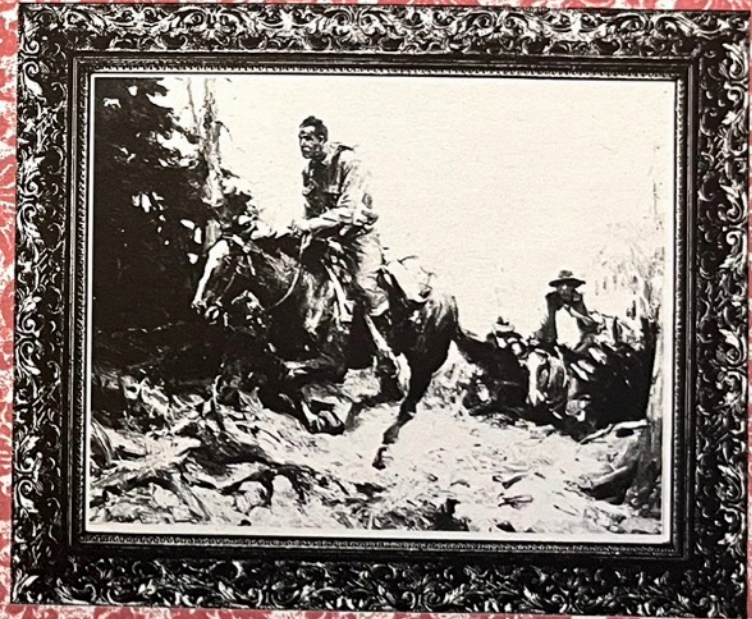
Art Appreciation

with **George W. Bush**



I know
what I like!

Mr George W Bush, president of the United States has always enjoyed showing visiting dignitaries around the White House and a highlight of the tour is his favourite painting 'A Charge To Keep' by WHD Koerner which hangs in the oval office.



The president likes to explain that the painting shares the same title as a hymn written by the father of Methodism Charles Wesley and that he so admired the picture he took it's name for his own official autobiography:

"When you come into my office, please take a look at the beautiful painting of a horseman determindly charging up what appears to be a steep and rough trail. This is us. What adds complete life to the painting for me is the message of Charles Wesley that we serve one greater than ourselves."

In actual fact the painting is called 'The Slipper Tongue' and was originally commissioned by the Saturday Evening Post to illustrate a short story about a smooth talking horse thief who is caught by townspeople and chased into the mountains. Rather than an allegory of spiritualism it portrays an experienced criminal desperate to stay one step ahead of the law and evade capture.

11
FREEDOM
IS SUCH A BIG WORD
*

To discuss freedom is the first step towards denying it.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] freedom. Freedom [REDACTED]

DISCUSSION OF FREEDOM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] of flight?
Freedom [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] freedom [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] freedom

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[REDACTED] are acknowledge, [REDACTED]

Freedom, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] reading which [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

IN CONCLUSION

[REDACTED] the gods that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
and it is [REDACTED]

Amen.

18 [







I don't think anyone's vocabulary is up to their imagination when it comes to describing dreams. I've got a friend who'll say, 'I had this really weird dream last night, I was a giraffe. I was a flying giraffe, I could fly upside down and breath under water at the same time, I had my Grandmother's face and green hair and my thoughts came out in bubbles in Morse Code and the fish could read my mind and I didn't realise this - I really offended this one fish because I remember thinking that he was really ugly and it turned out to be a woman... and you switch off - and that is why, in my opinion, there is still so much racism in the world today. Because 45 years ago, Martin Luther King came out and he said 'I HAVE A DREAM' and 200,000 people went 'Oh, fuck off, mate'.

Dreams



CONSUMER SURVEY

I try my hardest.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I believe that we've never had it so good.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I wish I could do more to put the sparkle back into my marriage.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I never admit to failure.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I can tell a Whopper from a Big Mac.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I lust after strangers.

AGREE
DISAGREE

If I can get away with it I prefer to lie than tell the truth.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I have secrets I don't reveal to anyone.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I wish I was somebody else.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I cry during sad films.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I wince at photographs of invasive surgery.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I would try to hide from a nuclear explosion, however pointless it might be.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I want the best for my kids, although I do not know what that means.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I prefer regular to large.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I believe in the Devil.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I would prefer prison to bondage.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I would eat human flesh as long as it was properly marketed.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I would eavesdrop on my friends if asked to do so by the Police.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I maintain a lifestyle I cannot afford.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I would shoot to kill.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I believe in electronic tagging for politicians.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I am unsure of my social position.

AGREE
DISAGREE

Whenever I hear the word 'Art' I reach for my Mastercard.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I hate myself but do not know why.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I like my SUV because essentially I am terrified of strangers.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I only married to escape my own loneliness.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I think of my genitals more often than my hands, but use them far less.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I am physically intimidated by my partner.

AGREE
DISAGREE

If murder was legal I would kill frequently.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I am a shadow of the person I would like to be.

AGREE
DISAGREE

Even with CCTV cameras all around I am still frightened of shadows.

AGREE
DISAGREE

If I could travel through time I would go to tomorrow and apologise.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I am getting worse rather than better.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I feel a yawning hollowness whilst talking to my friends.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I no longer believe in Santa Claus but have no trouble imagining a nuclear holocaust.

AGREE
DISAGREE

Driving behind lorries carrying hazardous waste makes me uneasy.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I have never been happier than I am now.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I can tell Coke from Pepsi.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I believe The War Against Terror will be won and Terror will stop existing.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I don't think about landfill.

AGREE
DISAGREE

Global Warming is a distraction from the real issues.

AGREE
DISAGREE

Everyone has a novel in them, although it's usually shit.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I know that the world is filled with ghosts.

AGREE
DISAGREE

Computers have made my life better.

AGREE
DISAGREE

I use my games console to block out the existence of my partner.

AGREE
DISAGREE

In this bunker there are women and children. There are no weapons.

AGREE
DISAGREE



Where the HELL are we?

The Cans Festival takes place deep inside the historic Lower Marsh catacombs, or Eurostar access road, if you prefer. A former taxi run from the train terminus it currently forms an open plan split level studio apartment for at least six rough sleepers.

This vibrant part of London boasts a rich and varied history. For centuries it stood outside the official city limits and provided refuge for all manner of activities deemed too colourful for the metropolis itself - theatre, art and drinking all flourished here.


In 1664 legendary London diarist Samuel Pepys records how five or six schillings would afford him not one but two goes with a Mrs Lane at the "old house in Lambeth Marsh". A meal, a drink and the entire session occupying just one hour.

A century later, round the corner on the site of the present day St Thomas's Hospital, Phillip Astley Esquire performed tricks on his horse whilst his missus, Patty, hit a huge bass drum. In the ensuing years their act incorporated other performers and grew into "mass spectacles of ring and stage"; the Circus was born.

A few decades later, one William Blake moved into No 13 Hercules Buildings just off Lambeth Marsh. A famed writer, artist and hymn composer he was also known to enjoy a little nude sunbathing with his wife Catherine in their not so private garden. Unable to tolerate his outspoken vitriol against established institutions, the authorities branded him mad at the time and upon his passing he was buried in the heretics graveyard near Old Street. These days Blake is considered an artist of national iconic status and his lyrics are sung every year at that most established of British rituals, The Last Night of the Proms.

For many decades, the air of Lambeth Marsh hung heavy with steam-train, factory and and coalfire smoke. The old folks of the area still remember every building being caked in black, and how you could tell who was walking past your front door by the sound of their cough.

These days the market has receded and is threatened by real estate conglomerates from all sides, but a few steadfast owner-occupiers hold strong and a reassuringly odd collection of premises remain. A shop that ONLY sells sheet music for woodwind instruments, anybody?

 Service information

Date 4th APRIL '07

Time

"I LOVE THE FAT MAMA, BABY,
'COZ ALL THEY DO IS EAT
AND GO TO SLEEP."

HECTOR THE KILLER MC

You Frown now,

But one day this will be considered

as one of my "early works"

Be noble
FOR

WE ARE
MADE OF
STARS

BE
HUMBLE

FOR
WE ARE
MADE OF
EARTH

STUDENTS ARE CUNTS.
Jr.





Rebellion is in the air and they're writing on the walls, but what does it feel like to be an actual revolutionary? We caught up with Stuart Christie, the famed Scottish anarchist to find out. When he was eighteen Stuart was arrested in Spain carrying a bunch of explosives in an alleged attempt to assassinate the fascist dictator General Franco.

Upon release from jail he set up a printing press in the basement of a flat in north London, published scurrilous magazines and sheltered internationally renowned anarchists. In 1972 he was put on trial for being part of the Angry Brigade - a Hackney terrorist organisation that bombed empty buildings in protest at predatory capitalism. He now lives somewhere in the countryside.

What's an 'Anarchist'?

When I was a child I was told that anarchists are against God, government and good manners.

Any regrets about getting caught carrying explosives in Madrid? Had I been older and wiser I'd have known to say nothing. But had I been older and wiser, I wouldn't have been there.

Did you go to college?

I spent 17 months in a 70's redbrick university where students matriculated with honour degrees in crime, corruption and dissent - Brixton prison.

Us or Them?

It's hard to fan the flames of righteous anger in the face of the sheer ordinariness of people.

What was the point of the Angry brigade?

To highlight the wrongs and injustices of the state through the psychological impact of victimless symbolic attacks, I imagine.

Were they extremists?

There's a saying - when everyone to your left is shot, you end up the extremist.

Got any war stories?

Walter Morrison, an ex-fusilier and peace campaigner tells of when during the Gandhi demonstrations in 1942 he and his troops were told by their officer they would be expected to fire on women and children if they refused to turn back, Walter stood up and said he would shoot any soldier who turned their gun on a woman or a child and he would then personally shoot the officer who gave the order. Unsurprisingly he was imprisoned.

Ever painted graffiti?

After the Paris uprising in 1968 a bunch of us painted 'PARIS TODAY - HORNSEY TOMORROW' across the front of Hornsey town hall.

Is there a God?

As a youth I seem to remember we all worshipped Saint Lanlic - the patron saint of fortified wine.

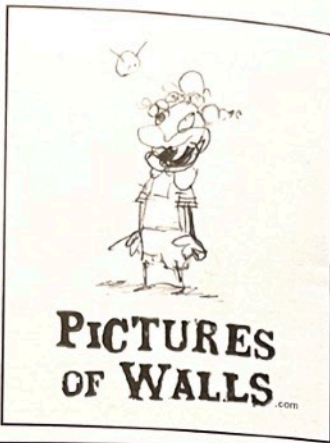
Are things better now than they used to be?

Perhaps the most noticeable change between now and then is the current apparent political indifference and lack of substantial numbers of committed people who are prepared to go out and fight for a better world - or even to defend their ancient hard-won liberties and challenge unjust wars, unjust laws and unjust practises.

So basically...

We cannot delegate our desire to take the offensive.

Stuart's biography is called "Granny made me an Anarchist" and is probably the best thing you'll read all year



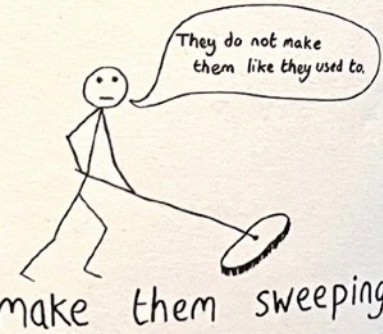
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LIBERTY PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS



Oh no, our taps been phoned

If you are prone
to generalisations



Contributors (in order of appearance)

Dirty Mark, Logan Hicks, Coolture, Altocontraste, Schhh and Oscar Wilde, extracts from an article by Henry Porter, Ruby Purchase, Tom Civil, Dave Eggers, M-City, Roadsworth, Brian Haw, Simon Munnery, Run Don't Walk, John Grider, Penny Rimbaud, Gee Vaucher, Sam 3, Daniel Melim, Adam Bloom, inquisitor Stanley Donwood, Pure Evil, Jim Carey, Pictures Of Walls, Josh, Filthy Luker and a quote from Angry Brigade Communiqué no.13.



"from this moment despair ends and tactics begin..."