**FEMINISM, THE ARCHIVE & THE FIRST INTERNET CAFE - 11-12/11/2016**

**INTERNET CAFE KIT**

‘Cybernetic Resistance’ evokes ‘CYBERIA’, the first Internet Café of its kind, founded in London in 1994 as a space for erotic and resource sharing, a survival tool by and for artists and activists. The projects inspired by and for sex workers, SWO is a place to socialise, learn new skills, get support and campaign for the rights and safety of everyone who makes a living from sex work. At the group’s annual conference in March 2016, participants gathered to talk about crime, criminalisation and the boundaries of physical and digital presence.

Kiona Hagen Nieshaus is an artist based in London. She is currently completing an MFA in Curating at Goldsmiths and working at Tenderpixel. She is developing an archive of independent curatorial projects with her collective ANGL. She has previously worked with arts organisations such as French-Geneve and London Art and Media as a feminist activist and writer. Her interests revolve around the intersections of history, magic, and the marginal. Brenda also has a podcast called snake soup where she interviews artists about their collections: www.snakesoup dáng mimi.

**THE WOMENS ART LIBRARY**

In a project for the Tenderpixel Research Bureau, Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus are working on an archive organisation publishing pamphlets and books as well as a magazine from the early 1980s-90s. The main purpose behind this is to provide a place for women artists to deposit unique documentation of their work. The collection of art from around the world is presented in a box in this form in this collection.

**ERICA SCOURTI**

Erica Scourti's work is in on both in Athens and Athens (London) and at the Wellcome Collection is on view until January 2017 (and online @empathydeck). www.ericascourti.com

**KIONA HAGEN NESHAUS**

A computational artist, photographer and playwright living in London. She is currently a PhD student in the Computing Department at Goldsmiths. Kiona obtained a BFA in Photography and a minor in Art History from Pratt Institute in 2013, and subsequently moved to London. She completed an MFA at Goldsmiths. Kiona has a podcast called snake soup around the intersections of history, magic, and the marginal. Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus interview local organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café. These informal talks aim to activate the communal space and are open to the public to attend and participate.

**SEX WORKER OPEN UNIVERSITY**

Encountered Fragments (2014), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The artist presents an interactive poetry generator using phrases and images from the Women’s Art Library’s archive, allowing each participant to create and print out their own choice of possible combinations. This piece connects the user to the digitally represented material in the archive in a tangible way, as the possibilities of online and error-based pairing of images with text speak to the subjectivity of categorization in the archive itself.

**THE SHOWROOM**

Queen To Ne (2016), recording of livestreamed performance, Kiona Hagen Nieshaus.

**PUBLIC CONVERSATION SCHEDULE**

Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus interview local organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café. These informal talks aim to activate the communal space and are open to the public to attend and participate.

1 pm: Aviah Sarah Day & Rosamund Liebeschut, Sisters Uncut
2 pm: Phoenix Perry, Code Liberation
3 pm: Zara Worker Open University

**ARTIST TALKS**

- Aviah Sarah Day: Sisters Uncut: Feminist To Me (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Erica Scourti: Queer To Me – Encountered Fragments (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Paul Maheke: Encountered Fragments (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Xana: My 3 am conversations (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: Activist talks with organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café.

**LECTURE**

Paul Maheke: Traveling Frictions (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom

**WORKSHOP**

Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus interview local organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café. These informal talks aim to activate the communal space and are open to the public to attend and participate.

**WORKSHOP**

- Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus interview local organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café. These informal talks aim to activate the communal space and are open to the public to attend and participate.

**ARTIST TALKS**

- Aviah Sarah Day: Sisters Uncut: Feminist To Me (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Erica Scourti: Queer To Me – Encountered Fragments (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Paul Maheke: Encountered Fragments (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Xana: My 3 am conversations (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: Activist talks with organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café.

**LECTURE**

Paul Maheke: Traveling Frictions (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom

**WORKSHOP**

Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus interview local organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café. These informal talks aim to activate the communal space and are open to the public to attend and participate.

**PUBLIC CONVERSATION SCHEDULE**

Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus interview local organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café. These informal talks aim to activate the communal space and are open to the public to attend and participate.

1 pm: Aviah Sarah Day & Rosamund Liebeschut, Sisters Uncut
2 pm: Phoenix Perry, Code Liberation
3 pm: Zara Worker Open University

**ARTIST TALKS**

- Aviah Sarah Day: Sisters Uncut: Feminist To Me (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Erica Scourti: Queer To Me – Encountered Fragments (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Paul Maheke: Encountered Fragments (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Xana: My 3 am conversations (2016), Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: The Showroom
- Brenda Guesnet and Kiona Hagen Nieshaus: Activist talks with organisations involved in feminist, queer, and anti-austerity activism about their own politics of space-making and their potential relationship to a utopian Internet Café.
Ever heard of CYBERIA? Judging by the small, blurry, picture of its shop front, paired with a cringe-inducing pun for a name, we might easily draw the conclusion that it was nothing more than a geeky gimmick.

In fact, CYBERIA marks a striking moment in the mid-90’s; it was the first commercial Internet Café in the world. Founded by Polish MA student Eva Pascoe and located in the heart of London, CYBERIA was set up specifically as a space for women to share knowledge and resources surrounding the strange new world that was the internet in 1994. Although the café quickly became so popular that the women-only policy was abandoned, the project resonates with the optimism many feminists had at the time regarding online spaces and virtual reality. These technologies seemed to offer the possibility to escape the restrictions of our bodies and the oppressions imposed upon them, and to inhabit a world where anything, including a feminist utopia, was possible.

More than twenty years later, Internet Cafés are disappearing spaces by many definitions. Most of us no longer have to be physically present in a specific room in order to be online, and it has become impossible to draw a clear line between our ‘virtual’ and our ‘offline’ lives. And while online spaces have certainly allowed many groups within feminism to form and thrive, we also know that power imbalances in the ‘real world’ are reproduced, if not heightened, on virtual platforms.

We therefore ask if the Internet Café, in the initial spirit of CYBERIA, can function (again) as a common, utopian space for communities to share ideas, tools and knowledge, as well as to have access, through the Internet, to resources that lie outside of its physical space. Is it possible to recover ‘the Internet’ as a common good? Is this useful or worthwhile to artists and organisers involved in feminist, queer, anti-racist work? In short, can we envisage a community-oriented, cybernetic resistance in our contemporary urban context? This ongoing investigation is showcased through a prototype Internet Café space, artworks, performances, and public conversations with experts and activists. The public is invited to contribute ideas and objects to an ‘Internet Café Kit’, which will be permanently stored in the Women’s Art Library and loanable to anyone who wishes to use it, as well as downloadable online (www.cybres.net, from 1 December 2016).

IMAGE CAPTIONS: