



**Intro: I'll be showing a few slides to demonstrate how we've increased access, interpreted, developed & shared our collections during 2017**

The whole collection was Recognised as being of National Significance to Scotland in 2015.

As a result, GWL was awarded an MGS Recognition Fund grant in 2016.



## Women Making An Exhibition of Themselves

“In this kind of atmosphere it’s an amazing opportunity to learn.”

*Community Curator*

### **Women Making An Exhibition of Themselves**

An Assistant Curator was appointed in early 2017 and 19 Community Curators were recruited in May 2017.

The Community Curators all had diverse backgrounds, skills and abilities. They comprised 5 younger women, 3 older women, 6 women with a disability and 5 women from the local area.



“I have learned a lot about museum standards, taking care of objects and planning an exhibition.”

“I learned so much about museum practice through this group.”

*Community Curators*



### **Women Making An Exhibition of Themselves**

The group met for 39 weeks for informal training and skills-development sessions; e.g. box lists, research, digitisation.

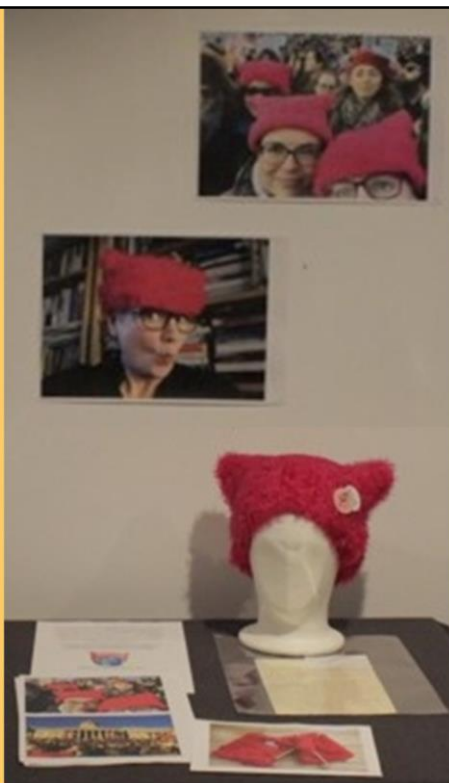
These sessions involved a combination of learning, exploring, sharing and supporting.



“It’s taking a leisure activity and using it in a political way and that’s really powerful so it’s fun but also has a really important political message.”

*Visitor feedback*

Community Curators’  
pop-up exhibition  
November 2017



### **Women Making An Exhibition of Themselves: Pop-up exhibition**

A public event held halfway through the project, showcasing selected items from the collections.

Pussy hats made in response to Trump’s comments are a good example of GWL’s rapid response collecting; They also reflect radical feminism and craftivism, both of which are well-represented within GWL’s collections.

A hat from the handling collection offered an interactive element that the Community Curators were keen to include in the event.



“It’s great to be in an environment that supports women’s achievements.”

*Community Curator*



Community Curators’  
pop-up exhibition  
November 2017

### **Women Making An Exhibition of Themselves: Pop-up exhibition**

This was the first public event for many of the Community Curators. It engendered real sense of ownership & empowerment and was a confidence boost for many of them.

The event received positive feedback from visitors, including several locals. It was a celebration of women and their achievements - including those of the Community Curators themselves.



## MGS Recognition Celebration Event

- 5 museums (including GWL) chosen to create showcase collections
- 150 delegates
- Community Curators met Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs



“My confidence has really grown.”

*Community Curator*

### **MGS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Showcase for Recognised Collections of National Significance**

A high profile event held at the National Mining Museum Scotland.

In contrast to other participating museums, GWL placed emphasis on allowing volunteers to share their experiences.

It was another big confidence boost for the Community Curators.



“It was amazing to get the opportunity to meet so many different women I wouldn’t meet otherwise ... I also enjoyed very much the openness and non-judgmental atmosphere.”

*Community Curator*



### **Women Making An Exhibition of Themselves**

The Community Curators have selected objects and developed interpretation for permanent displays, coming during 2018.

Although the official project has now ended, many women are continuing to volunteer at GWL; e.g. Rhia is cataloguing and digitising our postcards.



## Lesbian Archive Development Project

This is another example where volunteers were recruited and trained to assist in listing, rehusing and researching materials.

Lesbian Archive workshops were held during LGBT History Month 2017 (February) and a Lesbian Archive Toolkit was created.





## Speaking Out: Recalling Women's Aid in Scotland

### Speaking Out

A 2-year partnership project to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Aid in Scotland in 2016, running from 2015 to 2017.

GWL worked with Scottish Women's Aid, Women's History Scotland and the University of Glasgow's Centre for Gender History. The objectives were to discover, record and celebrate the history of Women's Aid in Scotland.



## Speaking Out

- 62 oral history interviews
- Cataloguing & digitisation of key pieces in the SWA Archive
- Documentary film
- Touring exhibition
- Events & workshops, including a conference
- Archive toolkit
- Learning resource
- Publication



### Speaking Out

Project outputs included 62 oral history interviews, a touring exhibition, a documentary film and a conference.

The *Legacy, Learning & Evaluation* document was produced to share experiences with other organisations running similar projects.



## Scotswummin: Scotland's Forgotten Women



“I am a huge supporter of the #scotswummin campaign that is being led by young people because it's so important that we give women and young girls the same opportunities in life as men and young boys.”

*Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister*

### **Scotswummin**

This was a youth-led research project delivered by YouthLink Scotland in partnership with GWL.

It addressed inequalities by enabling 5 youth groups across Scotland to discover influential and unrecognised women from their communities.

An exhibition of the groups' findings was held at GWL in August.



## Museums Galleries Scotland Conference

GWL's values-led approach was demonstrated by Adele Patrick at the 2017 MGS Conference titled *Inequalities: Bridging the Gap*.

Her keynote presentation discussed a grassroots approach to inequalities and demonstrated that GWL is taking the lead in being a change-making organisation.

At the same conference, a breakout session titled *The Personal is Political: Exploring the LGBTQIA+ Collections* was co-led by Alice Andrews (Lesbian Archive Development Worker).



Loan to The Glasgow School of Art

Posters from the original Zero  
Tolerance Campaign

*23 Feb – 1 May 2017*

Franki Raffles, *Observing Women At Work*

She lives with  
a successful businessman, loving father  
and respected member of the community.  
Last week he hospitalised her.



EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, SEXUAL  
MALE ABUSE OF POWER IS A CRIME

**Z**  
ZERO TOLERANCE

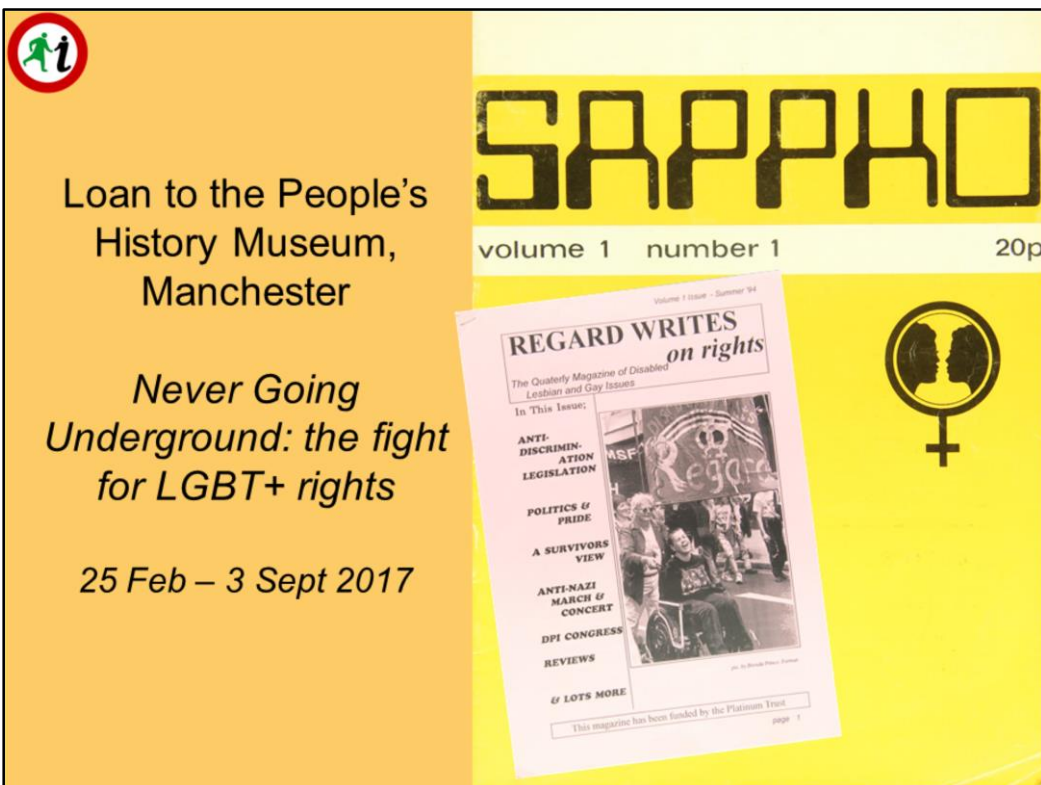
EDINBURGH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE  
*working for zero tolerance of  
violence against women*

SUPPORTED BY SAFER EDINBURGH PROJECT  
AND LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Loan: Glasgow School of Art

Other ways of sharing collections during 2017 included several high profile loans.

Posters from the Zero Tolerance campaign were loaned to Glasgow School of Art (23 Feb – 1 May 2017).



**Loan: People's History Museum, Manchester**

Items from the Archive were loaned out for an exhibition titled *Never Going Underground: the fight for LGBT+ rights* (25 Feb – 3 Sept 2017)



Loan to The Royal  
Glasgow Institute of  
Fine Arts

Prints from the GWL  
*21 Revolutions* series

*Mitchell Library*  
12 – 26 Nov 2017

Lucy Skaer, *Cheiron in Type* (2012)



#### **Loan: The Royal Glasgow Institute for Fine Arts**

Prints from *21 Revolutions* series were loaned to the RGI for their exhibition at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow (12 – 26 Nov 2017).

Another loan during this period was a selection of Suffragette postcards and memorabilia to Falkirk Community Trust.



## Preparations for Dundee Women's Festival

*Firebrand Women*

*Dundee Central Library*



### ***Firebrand Women***

Towards the end of 2017, GWL volunteer Mattie worked with our National Lifelong Learning Development Worker to select badges, zines, posters and other objects for an exhibition in Dundee Central Library. This was installed in March 2018 as part of the Dundee Women's Festival.





## StAnza: The Blaze of Day

A quiet revolution

Father brings it home: a knick-knack he smacks down on the mantle, roaring with laughter. He rotates it so the crone's face shows, with her wide nose, lipstick a thick red sharpness. *A shrew like all of them, he spits at my mother, wanting more than they can chew.* She nods, stirs his soup.

Later, instructed to dust, I run my fingertips over its cool, smooth curves. Gently I swivel it until the crone's face is replaced by the youth's. Mirrored, I leave her for him not to notice.

*Katie Ailes*



### Scotland's Poetry Festival: *The Blaze of Day*

GWL worked in partnership with StAnza in preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. StAnza said:

"The library holds a rich archive of objects to do with the history of campaigns for women's rights, and we've commissioned poets to write and respond to artefacts from their Suffragettes' Collections."

Participants included Katie Ailes, Magi Gibson, Nadine Aisha Jassat and Iona Lee.



## FROM GLASGOW WOMEN'S LIBRARY

PANEL brought together worked with contemporary artists and designers to curate beautiful souvenirs celebrating women, inspired by items in GWL's collections e.g. Feminist Charms bracelet designed by Ruth Ewan and Joy BC.



*Warm Friends, Cold Cash* at Konsthall C, Stockholm, 2015

*Every Woman, Laura* (screen print, 2015)  
Gifted by Ciara Phillips

**Ciara Phillips, *Every Woman, Laura* (2015)**

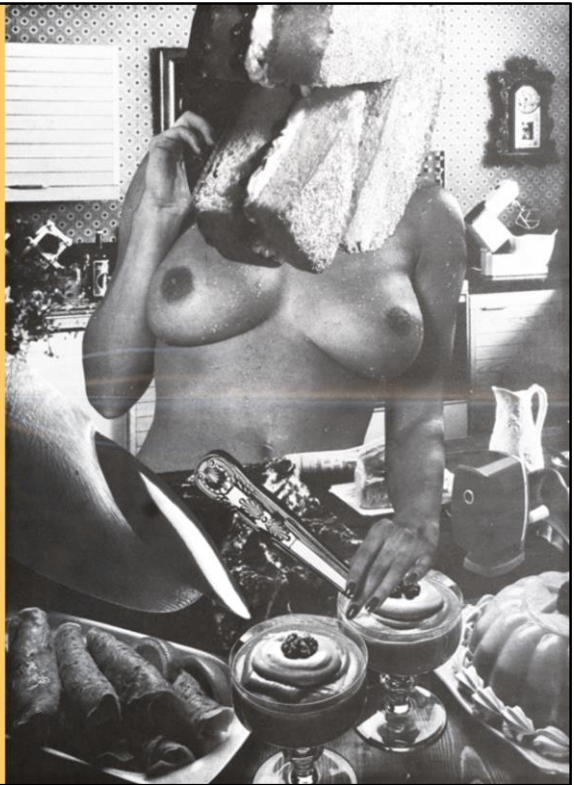
Projects like *21 Revolutions* help GWL's collections grow and develop. New acquisitions include contemporary artworks.

Turner Prize nominee Ciara Phillips took part in *21 Revolutions* and gifted *Every Woman, Laura* (2015) to the collections in 2017.



## Linder Residency and acquisitions

Linder Sterling and Jon Savage,  
*The Secret Public* (1978)



### Linder Sterling

**This is** another example of how GWL's programming can inform and expand the collections. Linder's residency has led to important new acquisitions, including a rare copy of *The Secret Public* and Linder's sketchbook.

Objects that inspired Linder during 2017 can be seen on display in the Welcome Wall as you join us in the Library.