

Where are we? Or are we?



2022 Feb 8 - 2022 Oct 3



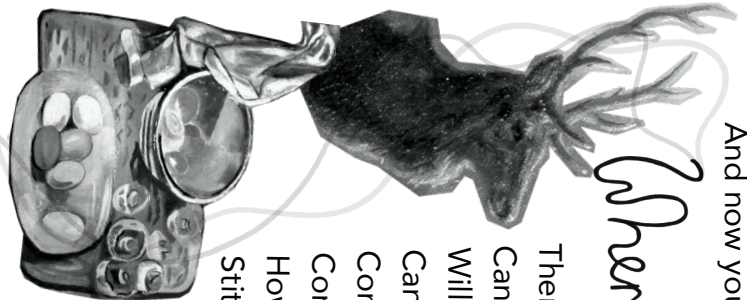
Made by the Where are all the Lesbians Collective (WAATL Collective), this journey of discovery follows the Collective's personal interpretations of objects through Brighton Museum, ending with a visit to our exhibition on the 1st floor on the North Balcony.



BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

University of Brighton
Centre for Design History

techné



And now you find yourself at

Where are all the lesbians?

There's much to choose from and merchandise too!
Can you find all our objects, laid hidden no longer?
Will you hear "Lisa's Ladies" - stronger than words?
Can you say the word 'lesbian' without the purge?
Come. Lever yourself into others' shoes, or
Come muse with us with fists held close, then choose
How to trail lesbians in Sussex and beyond
Stitching together our gardens and bonds.

Whilst you're up here, why don't you check out the 'Brighton and Hove Albion: Stand or Fall' exhibition and read about the Proud Seagulls.



Helen
"This emerging exposé of hidden herstory made me re-question why lesbian lives get erased from human life and expression."

Siren
"I was shocked to discover that even in Brighton, our herstory needed reclaiming & made visible!"

Jane
"Writing ourselves back into history, one story at a time. Representation matters."

Veronica
"Lesbian visibility is key to our wellbeing and sense of identity. WAATL is truly empowering to challenge erasure!"

Sarah
"I felt outrage that my lifetime existence as a lesbian wasn't going to count unless there was a smoking gun. Hopefully being a part of Lisa's group counts!"

Rach
"Connecting with lesbians across generations has been one of the most meaningful parts of this project. Our shared stories remind us where we've come from and why our history matters."

Katie
"Being able to explore and rediscover our history is joyful - WAATL is giving our predecessors the acknowledgement they deserve."

WAATL COLLECTIVE MEMBERS
QUOTES ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Mycelium

by Helen (Charles)

Look. Women avoiding the male gaze and looking to each other

Every catalogue whispers resistance, power: within and without

Suitably suited but not for a wedding, the silk stains of social norms

Buried in sapphic mycelium of a still life

Is community dabbling – our objects of desire, telling us

Androgyny speaks louder with lilies, skirts and ties

Nothing can stop the Stag for three lovers, in a grave. Together forever

Sh! Listen. Lift up your gaze. Be curious

And that's ok.
 Maybe the labels matter. Maybe they don't.
 Botanical-queer?
 And there's not one word for this
 painting. Floral non-confirming?
 And there's not one word for this
 painting. Floral non-confirming?
 Botanical-queer?
 And that's ok.



Exposing their gardens from delay to our day.
 Our writers and actors, speak where they lay
 The automated action from behind the scenes
 On stage with still lives of daring display
 From Gluck and their frames to crinoline Queens
 To Ethels and Florence, Frances, Bonheur
 Guiding you. Bandwidths of QR codes lure
 Turning pages, archives and paths, to our type of love
 And kangas you forward to suits and silk scarves
 Well, this one takes you by the hand
 In museums across skies, near and far
 Have you ever wondered where all the L_sbiens are?

Well, follow our... **LESBIAN TRAIL**
 Where are all the lesbians in museum collections?
 Welcome! Have you ever asked,

As you enter the THE CENTRAL GALLERY:

THE DEVIL'S ALTAR by Gluck

Floral non-confirming? Botanical-queer?

This painting is strange
 Floral yes, but look at those stary stems,
 the stormy background, poisonous flower
 heads hanging ominously. An artist who
 us refusing to play by the rules

Gluck was born female, lived like a man,
 loved women, declaring "no prefix, no
 suffix, no quotes." In the 1930s, there
 wasn't a word for that. There still isn't.

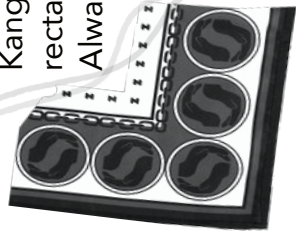
LESBIAN LINK BANNER

A lovingly handmade banner,
 hidden away in a cardboard box,
 has found the light again; its story
 slowly unfolding to reveal lesbian
 friendships and social lives.



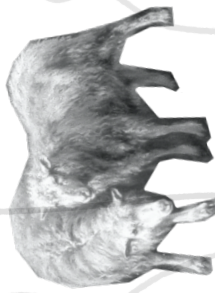
PENZI LANGI HALILI KANGA

Kanga, khangas or lessos;
 rectangular cotton cloth.
 Always bordered. Always bold.
 Just like T-shirts, perfect for
 saying something with pride.



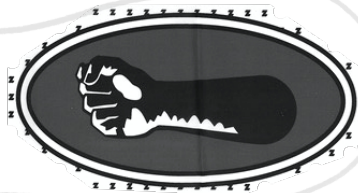
DR LOUISE MARTINDALE

Find the the stethoscope of one of
 the first female surgeons and physicians,
 who lived with a women for 35 years.



SHEPHERD OF THE PYRENEES by Rosa Bonheur

Bonheur was dedicated
 to portraying subjects
 from life with the same
 authenticity she brought
 to her own life, loving
 and living with
 female partners.



in QUEER THE PIER in the Spotlight Gallery

Anne Lister's three
 days in Brighton.



Tommy and Betty: lesbian loving
 relationship captured in a photo
 album, nearly lost forever.



then in QUEER LOOKS
 in the Fashion Gallery



The unisex style of
 City comedian
 Zoe Lyons



Ciara and Abbie's
 unique wedding
 outfits.