

Press Release: 15 April 2019

Everything I Have Is Yours

Eileen Simpson and Ben White (Open Music Archive)

4 July – 3 November 2019

Salford Museum and Art Gallery

Eileen Simpson and Ben White: Open Music Archive

14 June - 18 August 2019

Castlefield Gallery



Eileen Simpson and Ben White, *Everything I Have Is Yours* (ungraded film still) 2019

Everything I Have Is Yours is an ambitious film and sound work by **Eileen Simpson and Ben White (Open Music Archive)** that looks back to the first decade of the UK pop charts (1952-62). Working with a group of older musicians – many of whom are the ‘original teenagers’ of the Greater Manchester music scene, now in their 70s and 80s - the film focuses on this diverse group as they re-engage with public-domain samples from the formative era of the ‘birth of pop’, and incorporate these timeless sounds into new musical creations.

When the musicians play, they individually and collectively interact with digital technology, recalling archive sounds ripped from 1950s and early 1960s shellac and vinyl chart hits. Copyright-controlled elements of the original records are separated out and copyright-expired samples are released through an algorithmic process to enable collective use for the project and for future sharing.

As the group trigger sounds from the past, the camera continuously tracks its way through the assembled musicians, echoing the circular loops of the music itself. What results is a vivid sonic conversation, an intergenerational call and response that traverses the private, personal and public.

Everything I Have Is Yours has been commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, Contemporary Art Society, University of Salford Art Collection and Castlefield Gallery. An edition of the film will enter the University of Salford Art Collection.

To coincide with the launch of *Everything I Have Is Yours*, Castlefield Gallery will present **Eileen Simpson and Ben White: Open Music Archive**, the first UK survey show of the artists' work from 14 June – 18 August 2019. The exhibition presents a selection of projects developed over the last ten years in which the artists explore the performative potential of the archive by reanimating copyright-expired archive material. Featuring sound recordings gleaned from the genesis of the music industry in 1920s Atlanta, a lost feature film from 1950s Jordan, and samples from the very edges of the public domain ripped from 1960s UK chart hit records – the artists deploy rich archive material to produce an *open source* body of audio-visual work and invite a range of collaborators to produce and perform the public domain.

Together We Move, is a Greater Manchester engagement programme that responds to *Everything I Have Is Yours*. The programme extends opportunities for older people to engage with the music, visual culture and social history between 1952 – 1962. The older people will present a showcase of their activities at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, during the exhibition of *Everything I Have Is Yours*, as well as a community led programme of tours and events. As part of Together We Move, a group of older musicians representing the film protagonists and the wider Greater Manchester communities, will come together to perform music from 1952 – 62 in MIF19's Festival Square. This programme will be announced in May.

For further information, interviews and images please contact Catharine Braithwaite on +44 (0)7947 644110 or cat@we-r-lethal.com

Notes to editors

Eileen Simpson and Ben White (Open Music Archive) were both born in Manchester, 1977, now living and working in London and Manchester. Simpson and White work at the intersection of art, music and information networks, seeking to challenge default mechanisms for the authorship, ownership and distribution of art. Their ongoing project **Open Music Archive** is an initiative to source, digitise and distribute out-of-copyright sound recordings, and is a vehicle for collaborative projects exploring the material's potential for reuse.

Recent projects include: [Play it Again! Use it Together](#) for Victoria Gallery & Museum Liverpool (2018), [Auditory Learning](#) for British Art Show 8 (2015-16), [Premonition 2037](#) (2016) for KALEIDOSCOPE Modern Art Oxford, [Local Recall](#) at Hallé St Peter's Manchester (2014), [Playhead](#) for Schizophonia at CAC La Synagogue de Delme (2013), [ATL 2067](#) for Flux Night Atlanta (2013), [Open House: Divided Estates](#) at Casa Luis Barragán / de_sitio Mexico City (2012), [The Brilliant and the Dark](#) at VBKÖ Vienna (2012) and The Women's Library London (2010), [Song Division](#) at Camden Arts Centre (2011), [Struggle in Jerash](#) at Gasworks London / Makan Amman (2010), [Parallel Anthology](#) at the 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010), [Free-to-air](#) at ICA London (2008) and Cornerhouse Manchester (2007).

www.openmusicarchive.org/projects

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. fvu.co.uk

The Contemporary Art Society champions the collecting of outstanding contemporary art and craft in the UK. Since 1910 the charity has donated thousands of works by living artists to museums, from Picasso, Bacon, Hepworth and Moore in their day, through to the influential artists of our times. Sitting at the heart of cultural life in the UK, the Contemporary Art Society brokers philanthropic support for the benefit of museums and their audiences across the entire country. Their work ensures that the story of art continues to be told now and for future generations. www.contemporaryartsociety.org

Equal Shares is a collaboration between Contemporary Art Society and Film and Video Umbrella to commission new moving-image works by artists in partnership with four Contemporary Art Society Member Museums: University of Salford Art Collection; Touchstones, Rochdale; Gallery Oldham, and Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool. Once completed, the individual works will enter into the permanent collection of one of the four museums. The commissions will consider the North West of England as a longstanding source of radical thinking: a site of new forms of collective action and co-operation, and alternative models of redistribution and exchange. The first of the four projects is *Everything I Have Is Yours* by Eileen Simpson and Ben White (Open Music Archive).

The University of Salford Art Collection contains almost 700 works of modern and contemporary art, and exists for the benefit of students, staff and the public. It is accessible in key buildings across the University of Salford campus, and is loaned to other arts organisations and museums. The collection is distinctive in that it has an active acquisitions policy focused on three collecting strands: 'About the Digital', 'From the North', and 'Chinese Contemporary Art'. Most acquisitions are developed through strategic partnerships with external exhibition and commissioning collaborators such as Open Eye Gallery, Castlefield Gallery, Salford Museum and Art Gallery and AND Festival. artcollection.salford.ac.uk/

Castlefield Gallery is a contemporary art gallery and artist focused organisation established in 1984. The gallery exhibits new and commissioned work at its main venue in Manchester, off-site and in the public realm. Castlefield Gallery works locally, nationally and internationally - often through dynamic partnerships and exchange. The organisation supports artists' practice and career development, working especially with artists at early and mid-career stages. Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces re-purposes temporarily vacant property for use by artists across Greater Manchester and the North West of England, accessed by its 200 strong plus Castlefield Gallery Associates. The celebrated Ryan Gander OBE is Castlefield Gallery's Artist Patron. www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/

Salford Museum and Art Gallery & Salford Community Leisure. Established in 2003, Salford Community Leisure, which runs Salford Museum, is a not-for-profit organisation that is run by and for the people of Salford, it is committed to enhancing the physical and cultural wellbeing of the community through the sport, library and cultural opportunities on offer across 40 venues, which attracted over 3 million customer visits last year. Working hard to ensure each and every experience is the very best it can be, Salford Community Leisure boasts state of the art fitness and sports centres, a dedicated watersports centre; football facilities; Salford Museum and Art Gallery; several music and art spaces; libraries and community hubs plus Ordsall Hall Tudor Manor House and gardens. <https://salfordmuseum.com/>

Everything I Have Is Yours and Together We Move
Wednesday 3 July, Salford Museum & Art Gallery
Press preview: 2-5pm
VIP preview: 5pm
Preview 6-8pm

Salford Museum and Art Gallery
Peel Park
The Crescent
Salford
M5 4WU

Opening times: 11.30am – 4.00pm
Admission: FREE. Accessible venue and parking.
<https://salfordmuseum.com/> Tel: 0161 778 0800

Eileen Simpson and Ben White: Open Music Archive
Thursday 13 June, Castlefield Gallery
Press and VIP preview: 5pm
Preview 6-8pm

Castlefield Gallery
2 Hewitt Street, Manchester

M15 4GB
Tel: 0161 832 8034

Opening times:
Wednesday – Sunday, 12noon – 5.30pm
Admission: FREE. The gallery is fully wheelchair accessible.
www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk Tel: 0161 832 8034

Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, the Contemporary Art Society, University of Salford Art Collection and Castlefield Gallery through 'Equal Shares' 2019



Presented by Contemporary Art Society, Mbili Foundation and the University of Salford



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