

# Random Archive



Bury Art Museum  
& Sculpture Centre

The Random Archive is a collaborative exhibition project taking place over 2 sites, Bury Art Museum, and MMU Special Collections Gallery.

Curated by Susan Lord and Dr. Hannah Allan, the Random Archive exhibition features the work of national and international Language Artists which is part of Bury Art Museum's unique Text Art Archive. Random Archive attempts to push boundaries by questioning how an archive can be viewed, accessed and explored. This is a unique opportunity for visitors to get up close in a gallery setting to a collection which is usually kept in store, the public will be encouraged to interact with it and explore it afresh.

Working with Dr. Panayiota Vassilopoulou the Philosopher in Residence and artist Rachel Defay-Liautard the exhibition takes a look at new ways of thinking about what an archive could be in the future. The exhibition is made up of an Archive Maze, hands on Bibliomancy Section, a Digital Archive and a Reading Room which will involve invited artists and writers and will evolve over the course of the exhibition.

Random Archive's sister show Tricking the Impossible at MMU Special Collections gallery will examine the collaborative relationship between the author Penny Rimbaud (former member of the English Punk band Crass) and publisher Christian Brett through their work with radical book publisher Bracketpress.

Running alongside the exhibition are a series of free workshops and a symposium funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. These explore how to care for community archives, how to establish a DIY/Feminist archive, how to catalogue an LGBTQ archive and how to create a digital archive.

The Random Archive exhibition has been made possible through funding from Arts Council England

Random Archive  
(20/5/2017 – 12/08/2017)  
Tricking the Impossible  
(24/04/2017- 25/08/2017)

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**Thursday 1 June**  
6pm - 8pm

**In-conversation:  
the Random Archive**

Celebrating the opening of our new exhibition Random Archive this discussion with resident philosopher Dr Yiota Vassilopoulou (University of Liverpool) and curators Dr. Hannah Allan and Susan Lord gives you a behind the scenes look and the opportunity to explore the wealth of perspectives from which the exhibition may be approached. Followed by drinks reception.

**Friday 2 June**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Caring for Community  
Archives Workshop**

This workshop will give members of local art and history societies and those individuals who have a passion for collecting, the opportunity to learn how to catalogue and care for the documents you collect.

**Saturday 17 June**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Feminist & DIY Archives  
Workshop**

Some of the practical and experimental approaches to creating archives of overlooked or undervalued material. Bring your own objects, images, stories and memories to begin the process.

**Tuesday 20 June**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Caring for Community  
Archives Workshop**

This workshop will give members of local art and history societies and those individuals who have a passion for collecting, the opportunity to learn how to catalogue and care for the documents you collect.

**Friday 23 June**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**The Archive Maze  
Workshop**

Is the art archive the information or the actual objects it contains? And are these objects just documents or works of art themselves? Resident philosopher Dr Yiota Vassilopoulou invites you to reflect on these questions and explore together new ways of engaging with this part of the exhibition.

**Saturday 24 June**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Catalogue Poetics  
Workshop**

Exploring the language and syntax used when cataloguing an archive, and how this might be used creatively to draw out narratives or work with the documents.

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**Thursday 6 July**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**The Digital Archive  
Workshop**

How does technology impact on our relationship with the past, the lived experience of the present, our imagining of the future? Join resident philosopher Dr Yiota Vassilopoulou in exploring how philosophy can help us understand this part of the exhibition and its relevance for our life today.

**Saturday 15 July**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Polari-Divine  
Workshop**

Exploring the various language categorisations that can be used when cataloguing an LGBTQ archive.

**Saturday 22 July**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Creating Digital Galleries  
Workshop**

Looking at innovative ways of how to display archives and artworks using digital technologies and DIY tools.

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**Saturday 5 August**  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

**Caring for Community  
Archives Workshop**

This workshop will give members of local art and history societies and those individuals who have a passion for collecting, the opportunity to learn how to catalogue and care for the documents you collect.

**Saturday 12 August**

**Symposium at  
Bury Art Museum**

The symposium will gather arts, writing, and heritage professionals together to focus on the theme of 'Language based practice within and through the archival'.

**Workshops are FREE-  
call for more information  
and to book your place -  
0161 253 5878**

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