

Do you remember Olive Morris? Exhibition

Gasworks, 21 November 2009 – Sunday 24 January 2010

Developed by artist Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre, the exhibition maps out a three-year long artist and community-led research process conceived to uncover the largely untold history of Brixton-based activist Olive Morris (1952-1979). In her short life, Morris co-founded the Brixton Black Women's Group and the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD), and was part of the British Black Panther Movement. She campaigned for access to education, decent living conditions and against state and police repression.

The exhibition at Gasworks retraces the different phases and multiple collaborations the project has entailed: starting with the artist's encounter with a photograph of Olive Morris by British Black Panthers' photographer Neil Kenlock; leading on to meeting with community activist Liz Obi, a friend and colleague of Olive Morris and long-term collaborator on this project; and more recently with the formation of the women's group Remembering Olive Collective. The exhibition brings together art works, films, historical photographs and archival material from the newly-created Olive Morris Collection.

Education Projects

Families will be invited to explore the *Do you remember Olive Morris?* exhibition as part of Gasworks' Even Better Together programme, more details will follow on: www.gasworks.org.uk

If you are from a school and would like to book a trip to Gasworks to view the *Do you remember Olive Morris?* exhibition, please contact Katie Orr on 020 7587 5202 or email katie@gasworks.org.uk for further information.

Acknowledgements

All events have been programmed by members of the Remembering Olive Collective. Many thanks to all contributors and speakers who are donating their time, skills and expertise to make this happen. Special thanks to the Morris family, Liz Obi and Mike McColgan for their ongoing support.

Project partners: Gasworks, Lambeth Archives, Brixton Library, Lambeth Women's Project and Black Cultural Archives.

For further information about Olive Morris and ROC, please visit: www.rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com

For further information about the exhibition and the public programme, please contact: Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH. Tel: 020 7582 6848 | www.gasworks.org.uk



GASWORKS

Design: Neil McIvor

Do You Remember Olive Morris?



SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2009 – SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2010

A community history project celebrating the figure of Brixton activist Olive Morris (1952-1979)

Calendar of events organised by the **Remembering Olive Collective** in the context of an exhibition at Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH

Calendar of Events

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 7-8.30PM

Location: all events are held at Gasworks unless otherwise stated.

Entry fee: £1 minimum donation with a free Olive Morris badge.

All donations go to ROC

Gasworks has full wheelchair access.

Children are welcome. Suitable activities for ages 5-11 will be provided during Saturday events. For more information email us on: olivemorrishq@gmail.com

The Empty Gallery Interviews

A live conversation piece in which art writers Claire Nichols and Altair Roelants talk to artist Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre and other ROC members about the upcoming exhibition *Do you remember Olive Morris?*

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 2-5PM

Opening of the exhibition *Do you remember Olive Morris?* With a performance by Alexander D. Great, a contemporary troubadour renowned for his unique blend of Calypso and Soca Blues commenting on the social and political issues of our times.

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 7-9PM

Artist Talk

Sonia Boyce talks about her project *Devotional* - a celebration of Black female singers in British entertainment - and her involvement in the Remembering Olive Collective.

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER, 2-5PM

Documenting Migration

A workshop looking at the ways in which records and documents of migration are kept and used by official bodies and by migrants themselves, and their importance in framing public opinion and policy.

Screening of *Signs of Empire*, 5PM

(1984), dir. Black Audio Film Collective, 44 min. *Signs of Empire* comprises "an investigation into colonial fantasy" as well as into the historical conditions that informed contemporary racial, economic, and diasporic life in Britain. A montage of texts and images is employed to deconstruct official historical narratives and archival photographs, while the soundtrack combines musique concrete with tape loops of political speech.

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER

Remembering Olive Bicycle Tour, 12PM

Meeting at 11:45am in front of Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL

Visiting some of the places where Olive did things, and learning more about her, and Brixton's history. The bike tour will end at Gasworks in time for the 2pm event. If you would like to do the bike tour but don't know if you are confident enough to ride a bike, get in touch. There is some free cycling training available. Bookings and other info, phone Carolyn on 07912 210 056

Housing Matters, 2-5PM

Olive Morris's squatting years signalled her life-long commitment to campaigning on housing issues. This event investigates how housing has changed since her times, and what forms of struggle have been adopted. We will hear from some of the people who have been involved in those struggles, with a Q&A session with groups who provide advice to tenants, squatters and the homeless, including the Latin American Housing Coop and the Squatters Advisory Service.

SATURDAY 9 JANUARY, 2-5PM

Self-Education: On Alternative Strategies of Education

In Olive Morris' Brixton, self-education initiatives challenged the failings of standard comprehensive education for Black children. Members of ROC will be joined by a diverse group of educators to explore and exchange different approaches towards learning, across sectors and communities. This open, round table discussion will be initiated by a film screening.

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY, 7-9PM

The Heart of the Race: Oral Histories of the Black Women's Movement

The Heart of the Race's author Stella Dadzie with Kelly Foster and Mia Morris from the Black Cultural Archives introduce this year-long oral history project documenting the activism of Black women in the UK. Signed copies of out-of-print *The Heart of the Race* will be on sale.

SATURDAY 16 JANUARY, 2-5PM

Financing the Revolution

How does one fund work of a radical nature? What happens to community initiatives when public and charitable funding dries up, or imposes their own agenda? How can we disentangle ourselves from economic exploitation? With Onyekachi Wambu (AFFORD) on fundraising to support indigenous economic development in Africa, consultant Sandra Hurst on financial literacy for Black liberation, and and Carolyn on low-budget/zero-budget organising.

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY, 2-5PM

Closing event of the exhibition and launch of the publication *Do you remember Olive Morris?*

Your last chance to visit the exhibition, buy a copy of the publication and enjoy an afternoon of music and spoken word, including a poetry slam for young people and the not-so-young.

