

“What’s the bag about?”

“It’s about a hen weekend.”

“Who’s the hen?”

“There isn’t one.”

“So it’s a kind of chicken weekend then?”



**HEN WEEKEND IN BEXHILL ON SEA**  
30 MARCH - 1 APRIL 2007

The mini bus will depart from the Camden Arts Centre at 15:00 prompt. Please bear in mind what I said in an earlier email about the bus being full to capacity, once all 16 of us are on board, so there will not be lots of room for luggage!

“Did you get to see the exhibition?”  
“No.”

- Albert Ayler
- Aretha Franklin
- Babyshambles
- Beck
- Beth Orton
- Bill Medley & Jennifer Warnes
- Blondie
- Bob Dylan
- Bobbie Gentry
- Buck 65
- Cursor Minor
- David Bowie
- David Bowie
- Devendra Banhart
- Dire Straits
- Dolly Parton
- Elastica
- Electrelane
- Ella Fitzgerald
- Ella Fitzgerald
- ELO
- Elton John
- Enrico Caruson
- Glen Campbell
- Gwen Mccrae
- Joni Mitchell
- Joni Mitchell
- Jools Holland Swinging The Blues
- Kings Of Leon
- Lambchop
- Le Tigre
- Leonard Cohen
- Lou Reed
- Madonna
- Michael Franks
- Modeselektor
- Mozart
- Nightmares On Wax
- Nina Simone
- Nina Simone
- NWA
- Patti Smith
- Peter, Bjorn And John
- PJ Harvey
- Queen
- Ramones

“Funding.”

“Where are you from, London?”

“Are we nearly there?”

“Do you know anyone here?”

“No.”

“Do you?”

“No.”

“The sat nav is wrong, we should be going over there.”

- New Ghosts
- Rock Steady
- Albion
- Tropicalia
- Live As You Dream
- (I've Had) The Time Of My Life
- The Tide Is High
- Mr Tambourine Man
- Hushabye Mountain
- Wicked And Weird
- Electroflash
- Scary Monsters (Super Creeps)
- Ziggy Stardust
- I Feel Just Like A Child
- Romeo and Juliet
- Jolene
- Da Da Da
- On Parade
- Blue Moon
- At Last
- It's A Living Thing
- Philadelphia Freedom
- La Donna E Mobile
- Wichita Lineman
- 90% Of Me Is You
- Big Yellow Taxi
- Both Sides Now
- Mr Roberts Roost
- Slow Night, So Long
- This Corrosion
- Hot Topic
- Everybody Knows
- I'm So Free
- Don't Tell Me
- Popsicle Toes
- The Rapanthem
- La Ci Darem La Mano
- African Pirates
- Sinnerman
- Feelin Good
- Fuck Da Police
- She
- Young Folks
- Big Exit
- Don't Stop Me Now
- Needles And Pins

“Have we all picked out some songs to be played?”

“Yes.”

“None of my songs have been played yet.”

- Rolling Stones
- Santana
- Sarah Cracknell
- Schneider TM
- Scissor Sisters
- Sonic Youth
- St Etienne
- Stevie Wonder
- Sugababes
- The Beautiful South
- The Good The Bad And The Queen
- The Magnetic Fields
- The Shins
- Tindersticks
- TM Juke
- U2

“Does Manchester have an airport?”

“My feet are so cold, it must be because I'm wearing metal socks.”

“Everyone is taller than I thought they would be.”

“I've never been on a hen weekend before and really I still haven't.”

“I am not sure I like the word hen.”



- Honky Tonk Woman
- Black Magic Woman
- Coastal Town
- The Light 3000
- Don't Feel Like Dancing
- Kool Thing
- Only Love Can Break Your Heart
- Superstition
- Freak Like Me
- Don't Fear The Reaper
- History Song
- World Love
- Phantom Limb
- Tiny Tears
- Playground Games
- Vertigo

“I think art is about the process not about the final artifact.”

“Is it too loud in the back?”



“You've got to fill in a questionnaire whilst on the bus and these answers will help form some of the questions for the pub quiz.”  
“God it's taking me so long to fill it in.”

Room mates have been allocated. This was based on whether you answered in the questionnaire that you were a night or a morning girl. As you know there were to be 2 B&Bs, all en-suite apart from one room. But now one couple has to go to a third B&B and be way from the group. "I'll go anywhere there's a bathroom."

"Ok, we've got twenty minutes and then we've got to be at the restaurant."

"Is everyone wearing their name badge?"

"How do you get a gallery in London to show your work?"

"I really like playing Kerplunk."

"Yes so do I."

"What's ethical to eat."

"Haddock's more ethical than cod."

**Chips and haddock**

**Chips and haddock**

**Chips, haddock and onion rings**

**Chips, rock and garden peas**

**Chips, vegetable feasts, minty mushy peas and beer battered onion rings**

**Chips, skate and minty mushy peas**

**Chips and minted mushy peas**

**Chips, haddock, minted mushy peas and onion rings**

**Chips, haddock and salad**

**Chips, fish cakes, minted mushy peas and onion rings**

**Chips, haddock and minted mushy peas**

**Chips, vegetable feasts, minty mushy peas and beer battered onion rings**

**Chips, cod, minty mushy peas and onion rings**

**Chips, rock complete with backbone no batter, minty mushy peas and onion rings**

**Chips, rock, onion rings, mushy peas and a gherkin**

**Chips, cod and garden peas**

"40p extra for beer batter."

"If anyone would like some salad help yourself. It's got strawberries in it."

"Arts council."

"Where are you from?"

"Public art."

"Formalism."

"My daughter's had an ear infection all week."

"I am going to have a Shandy."

"I've never drunk coffee ever."

"I am going to have Rock."

"What does that taste like. Is it a meaty fish?"

"I don't know."

"Where are you from, London?"

"What's your B&B like?"

"OK."

"What's yours like?"

"OK, really clean."

"Have you been here before?"

"No."

**Q: What number of hens have been arrested?**

**Q: What song has the lyrics: 'I'm not the kind of girl who gives up just like that'?**

**Q: How many hens cannot install shelving, can you name them?**

**Q: What is the most popular household task among the hens?**

“What’s that?”  
“A Negroni.  
Martini, Gin and Campari.”

“A glass of red wine?”

“Do you want another drink?”

“Two pints.”

“A Bexhill marguerite.”

“I don’t know anything.”  
“Don’t worry, neither do I.”

“Where are you from, London?”

**Q: How many hens favour PCs over Macs?**

**Q: Who commissioned the building of the De La Warr Pavilion?**

**Q: What is the total price of the two items on the cover of issue 2 of Karen Magazine?**

**Q: Who recently repaired a pair of men’s shoes found in a bus stop off Broadway Market?**

“My worst fear is that tomorrow my presentation doesn’t play on the computer.”  
“I know.”  
“Maybe I’ll just leave if it doesn’t.”

“I hope this isn’t too academic.”

**Q: Who is Brian Bushell?**

**Q: Since its inception in 1984, how many women have won the Turner Prize?**

**Q: How many kilometers did Ellie Harrison travel on the London tube from 22 September 2002 until 23 September 2003?**

“Did you say you didn’t know anyone.”  
“I know of some of the people here, but I don’t know them.”

“God I’m so tired.”

“The De La Warr Pavilion is a Modernist icon for contemporary arts next to the beach in Bexhill on Sea. Combining visual arts, live performance, education, fantastic food and breathtaking views. We are two hours out of London, but it's worth spending two hours on a train and taking a look. You'll want to come back.”



“The gulls woke me up this morning.”  
“Yeah, me too.”  
“You snored last night.”  
“Oh no, I don't snore.”  
“Well you did last night.”

“My Dad's just come out of hospital. He's been very ill.”

“You're a lot more glamorous than I thought you'd be.”

“You know who I am because I am wearing my badge, some of you aren't.”

“I wish I was presenting this morning to get it over with.”

“I don't like presenting I get really nervous.”

“I wouldn't want to be a 100 years old.  
“Argh, yes but you might get to 93 and think go on.”  
“My Gran's 93 and she's determined to make it to 100.”  
“When I was 16 I was asked how long I wanted to live and I said 35.”  
“Why 35?”  
“It seemed long enough. Now I am older than 35 I am on borrowed time.”

“I hope you don't mind me saying this, but you look like my Auntie Angela.”

“Where are you from, London?”

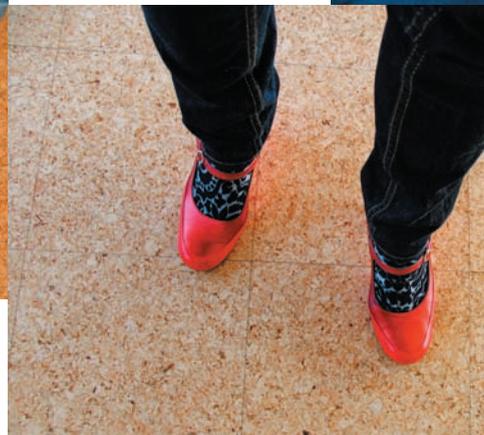
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1.

1. Early Venetian rhinoplasty, from Implicaspere: The Nose. Previously reproduced in Martha Teach Gudni and Jerome Pierce Webster, The Life and Times of Gaspare Tagliacozzi, Surgeon of Bologna, 1545-1599, Herbert Richner, 1950.

2. Roman Ondak, Good Feelings in Good Times installation at Frieze Art Fair 2004 photo by Polly Braden



### About my presentation

'A Brief Introduction to Artistic Phenomena.' A faux-scientific charting of the high frequency of coincidences and found things I experience in my artistic life both through data collected and with anecdotal evidence.

A 5 minute video 'Tree' shows me struggling into home-made tree costume and standing next to a tree trying to be/become tree-ish and failing plus performance of Mis(s) Fortune Teller who wonders if you believe in luck.

A little bit of chat and a short film.

'Bartending and social space' presented the potential for enacting dialogical aesthetics through the act of bartending, both literally and figuratively.

It's better to come clean from the start - I have a violent history of data collecting and an addiction to organising things. I'm just setting out on the rocky road to recovery.

My presentation was a glimpse into my documentary and art work focusing on how I approach 'real life stories', authorship and non fiction.

My work considers the experience of justice and freedom in contemporary liberal democracy and the languages that achieve and describe it, when crucially, they are often hinged upon images of force.

I talked about how my performance and publishing projects are about finding links between or containers for curious and esoteric nuggets: it's all about blocks and transitions.

For the Hen Weekend audience that knew nothing of Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois at Chicago and little about Chicago artists, galleries exhibitions etc., I described how Gallery 400 exhibition programming addresses the largely artist-driven but always changing conditions of the Chicago art scene.

Depressing.

I've found it harder to come up with one sentence about my presentation than it was to do the whole presentation.

Karen magazine which presents 'ordinary life' based on me moving through my life, engaging with people, accumulating ideas and material which I bring together and profile.

Tracking my career over one week, time lost,

time gained and time spent.

I am a freelance artist, gallery educator and curator. I work with a variety of arts organisations to deliver gallery education projects, produce exhibitions and present my own work. Over the last two years I have been developing a body of video work that records moments of light and shadow play, created by a variety of sources: car headlamps, reflections from industrial materials and the glow from a mobile phone.

My presentation was a few thoughts about the art market, about public funding and private funding and how they interact.

Brief introduction to my current work SPIKE. Quick introduction to commission for the Hen Weekend. Based on Bruce McLean's Pose work for Plinths.

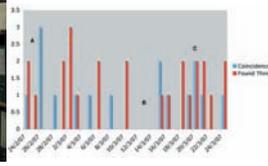




3.



4.



3. Mermaid's tears, found on Hells Mouth Beach, LLeyn Peninsular, North Wales 2007

4. Edgar Arceneaux's 'The Alchemy of Comedy... Stupid'



### About the other presentations

Series of brief glimpses, enough to entice and provoke discussion.

My head is still spinning from the ingenuity, professionalism and verve of the set of presentations.

What a lot of things to consider...

It was the intelligent artists' variety show.

I'm too busy looking at my watch to make sure things run on time. I focus on the middle section, but as they approach the 15 minute mark, I glare at them ferociously to encourage them to wrap things up.

I was surprised by the variety of approaches, backgrounds and interests of the hens, as well as the possible connections between people. It was interesting seeing who had invited whom. I also realised I had never been to Frieze Art Fair, but didn't feel I was missing out.

I don't have a response for this. It's too difficult to think about!

Blocks without transitions – radical.

The presentations at Hen Weekend were compelling for the way in which everyone displayed their passion

for their work. I was certainly engaged on that level, but I was torn as to whether I should care about what the group meant as a whole or pragmatically engage with those projects that seemed relevant to my work.

They were the central event to the weekend. I don't think the weekend would have made sense without them, I mean, it still would have been a nice weekend by the sea but wouldn't have made sense in terms of what the weekend was trying to do.

I would have appreciated more general discussions which may have allowed more active engagement from the group towards each other's practice. However, I guess there was just no time.

The presentations showed a process of thought, construction, platform and critique in a fragmented way, not

in a rounded way, but one that could both opened and close a particular practice. Difficult to define.

I felt incredibly stimulated from experiencing everyone's presentations on the Hen Weekend. They were so diverse, and revealed that it is possible to navigate a career in the arts in a variety of ways. Afterwards I felt like I really wanted to crack on with my own work and push my practice forward.

My reaction to all of the presentations: a lot of good, intelligent, diverse and entertaining thoughts.

Diverse.

Pressured time, dark room, power-points; creative practitioners with diverse practices, varying contexts, intentions and aspirations, producing work for a range of audiences and markets.

- bartending  
 - extreme violence  
 - different roles artist take on  
 - statistics  
 - nothing  
 - everyday life  
 - being woman

"We can't hear you."  
 "The music's too loud."

"What do we expect as viewers when we go to an art fair?"

"This has highlighted the different range of ethics within practice."

"How do you want to be represented within the text?"

- comment  
 - class  
 - being compatriot

"Shared needs ambitions, desires."

"What does it mean when an artist completely changes what they have been doing?"

"Being normative."

"This has highlighted the different range of ethics within practice."

"How do we combine different roles from within our practice?"



Does your gender have any bearing on the work you make? From its appearance, the content, the access you acquire and the way it is perceived. Or does being female have no discernable impact?

Photo sessions



"Is there a competitiveness amongst women?"  
 "I was wondering if women are more judgemental about themselves so therefore they are about other women?"

"Within a group of women there is no automatic commonality just through being women."

"Are you and me going to get on?"

"Politics in contemporary art."

"I don't want to do it."



"Cocktails or wine?"

"It's Graham's birthday and we've been asked to sing happy birthday to him, pass it on."  
 "It's Graham's birthday and we've been asked to sing happy birthday to him, pass it on."

"We've got £20 to spend which includes wine, pass it on."  
 "We've got £20 to spend which includes wine, pass it on."

"I'll just have a bottle of Champagne then."



"It's been a really full on day."  
 "I can't sing."

Breakfast, check-out of accommodation, store bags at De La Warr Pavilion, tour of Bexhill Museum mini golf and boating, scheduled individual photo sessions for 'Different For Girls' commission, lunch at De La Warr Pavilion restaurant, depart on 16-seater mini bus for London, trains and other transport from London onwards.

"Did you get to see the Secret Service exhibition?"

"No."

"What are we supposed to be doing now?"

"Going to see some dinosaurs, then it's golf, or boating oh and we all have to be videoed."

"How are you feeling?"

"Don't ask."

"Do you want some pain killers?"

"Oh yes please."



"It's been a really hectic schedule, it would have been good to have had a little more time to relax and chat with each other."

"I don't think I'll play golf, I think I'll look at the sea and chill out."

"What are you after?"

"Codling, rockling, sea bass."



"He's knocked the chimney down whilst I've been away for these couple of days."



"What time's the bus coming?"  
"Soon I hope."

"I wish there had been more time for discussions."



"The food's been great."

"What's it all been about then?"



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“Goodbye everybody, nice to meet you. Stay in touch?”



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