



JO SPENCE FROM FAIRY TALES TO PHOTO THERAPY

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE HYMAN COLLECTION

WWW.BRITISHPHOTOGRAPHY.ORG

Spence has been an integral figure within photographic discourse from the 1970s onwards. Throughout her diverse projects she is well known for her highly politicised approach to photography and the representation of her own struggles with cancer.

From Fairy Tales to Phototherapy focuses on the intersection between arts, health and wellbeing, celebrating Spence's work as a photo therapist in which she used photography as a medium to address personal trauma, reflecting on key moments in her past.

Photo-therapy, especially the type of re-enactment therapy that is at the heart of Spence's practice, is essentially a collaborative process and the exhibition presents works made by Spence in collaboration with Terry Dennett, Rosy Martin, David Roberts, Dr. Tim Sheard and Valerie Walkerdine.

The exhibition will focus on the actual small-scale photographs that Spence used in her photo-therapy sessions as well as the laminate panels that she used for her workshops and touring exhibitions.

From Fairy Tales to Phototherapy charts Spence's diagnosis and treatment for cancer, juxtaposing humour with inevitable challenging issues. Themes include Cinderella and Fairytales, Remodelling Photo History/Medical History, Childhood Child and Parent Relationships, Libido/Sexuality/Marriage, The Grotesque.

The Hyman Collection is one of the most important collections of Jo Spence's work in the world.



ABOUT US

JO SPENCE (1934 - 1992)

Jo Spence was a British photographer, a writer, cultural worker, and a photo therapist. She began her career in the field of commercial photography but soon started her own agency which specialised in family portraits, and wedding photos. In the 1970s, she refocused her work towards documentary photography, adopting a politicized approach to her art form, with socialist and feminist themes revisited throughout her career. Self-portraits about her own fight with breast cancer, depicting various stages of her breast cancer to subvert the notion of an idealized female form, inspired projects in 'photo therapy', a means of using the medium to work on psychological health.

THE HYMAN COLLECTION

The Hyman Collection is the private collection of Claire and James Hyman. The Hyman Collection supports photographers working in Britain and is one of the most significant collections of British Photography in the world.

The collection began in 1996 and consists of over three thousand artworks with a focus on photography in Britain. The collection ranges from conceptual artists working in photography to documentary photographers, and encompasses historic as well as contemporary photographs. The collection is committed to diversity and to supporting women in photography.

The Centre for British Photography has a loan agreement with the Hyman Collection and administers its loans programme.

CENTRE FOR BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY

The Centre for British Photography (registered charity number 1190955) was founded by James Hyman in 2020 and seeks to support photographers working in Britain through exhibitions, events, grants and mentoring.

The charity provides a platform for a range of voices in order to present an expansive overview of the diversity of photography, past and present.

SPACE REQUIRED

Full exhibition requires approximately 65 linear metres.

Please contact us to discuss curating a version of this exhibition for your venue.

LIST OF WORKS

Please see Appendix A for selected works.

FRAMING

All works are provided framed.

PREVIOUS VENUES

Arnolfini, Bristol, 19 December 2020 to 20 June 2021

CONTACT

For more details of this exhibition please consult info@britishphotography.org

INTERPRETATION

Included with the exhibition is:

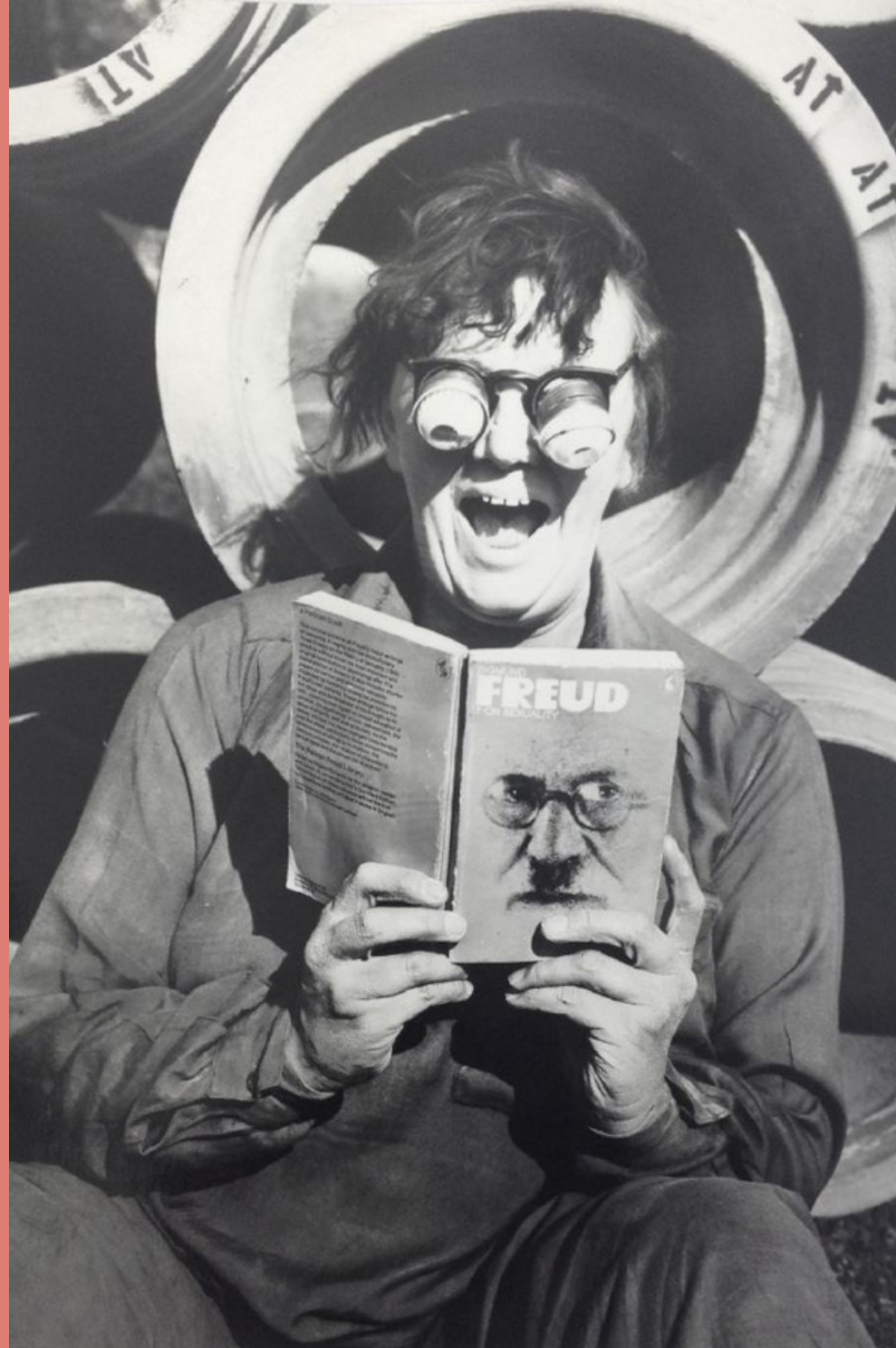
- Accompanying publications
- Vitrine material (Thesis pages, etc.)
- Text for introduction panel and captions
- Artist information folders

Venues to produce own vinyl lettering and labels.

HIRE FEE, TRANSPORT AND INSURANCE

£1,500 fee to the Centre for British Photography for curation and administration

Venues will be responsible for two way transport within mainland UK and for insurance in transit and in situ.



INSTALLATION IMAGES

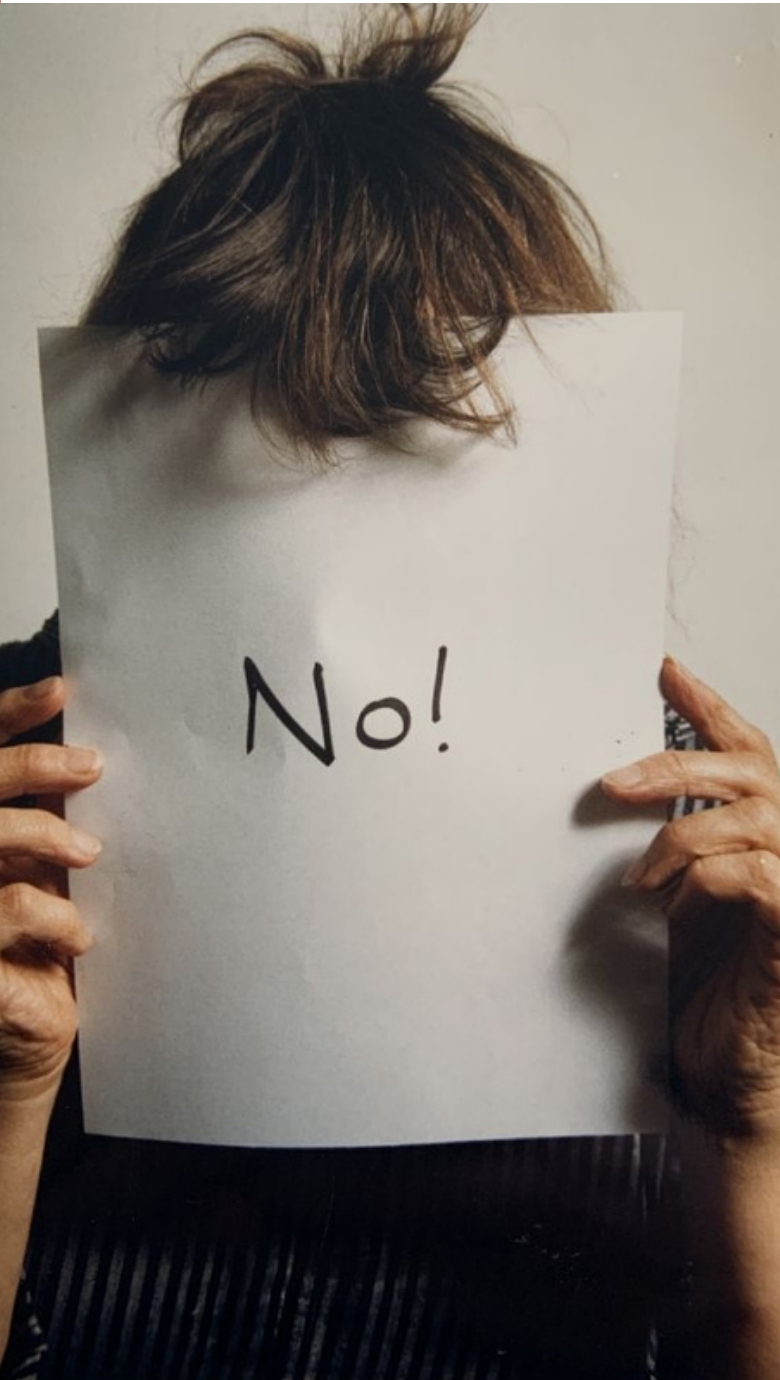


INSTALLATION IMAGES



INSTALLATION IMAGES





LIST OF WORKS

The Highest Product of Capitalism (After John Heartfield), 1979

Vintage Gelatin Silver Print

The Right to Work, 1979

Vintage Gelatin Silver Print

Beyond the Family Album

(opening images), 1979

13 x Remodeling Photo History, 1982

Vintage Gelatin Silver Print

Fairy Tales and Photography or, another look at Cinderella, 1982

Thesis, typed and extensively illustrated

The History Lesson: Self as Image (original laminated opening panel), 1982

Remodelling Medical History: Being told I had cancer, 1982

Three Vintage Gelatin Silver Prints, mounted and annotated by Spence.

Unique Artist's Book: "The History Lesson: Self as Image", 1982

Album (several pages)

9 x Only when I got to fifty did I realise I was Cinderella, 1984

Artist laminated exhibition panel

Photo therapy: Work on Emotional Eating, 1984

Four colour photographs mounted by the artist onto black cardboard.

Photo therapy: Double Shift /Double Crossed/Double Bind, 1984

Four colour photographs mounted by the artist onto black cardboard.

Photo therapy: Transformations, 1984

Four colour photographs mounted by the artist onto black cardboard.

Photo therapy: Transformations (from The Picture of Health), 1984

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: The Bride (from a phototherapy session on powerlessness), 1984

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Shame Work (Their Scientific Research. His Desire), 1984

2 x Vintage C-type prints

Photo therapy: Shame Work (His Desire. Her Trauma), 1984

2 x Vintage C-type prints

Photo therapy: Transformations (from The Picture of Health), 1984

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Father work, 1985

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Daddy's Good Little Girl from "The Minefield of Memory",

1985-86

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Mother Work: Newly married she offers herself up on a plate, 1986

Vintage C-type print

3x Respect (ability) from a session on

Powerlessness, 1987

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Late Mother (or "How to get beyond the stereotype"),

1987

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Mother and Daughter Work, 1987

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Late Mother (or "How to get beyond the stereotype"),

1987

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: From a session on

Powerlessness, 1988

Vintage C-type print

3 x Photo therapy: "Crone" from Triple Somersaults, 1988

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Mother and Daughter Shame Work. Crossing Class Boundaries, 1988

2 x Vintage C-type prints

4x Photo therapy: Cultural Capital?, 1988

Vintage C-type print

2 x Photo therapy: Anger Work from Triple Somersaults, 1988

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: The Evacuee - Abandonment at Christmas, 1988

2 x Vintage C-Type prints

Photo therapy: Cultural Capital?, 1988

4 x Vintage C-type prints

Photo therapy: (Untitled - Wedding Ring), 1988-89

2 x Vintage C-type prints

Photo therapy: Deconstructing Glamour, 1988-89

4 x Vintage C-type prints

Photo therapy: Deconstructing Glamour, 1988-89

6 x Vintage C-type prints

Photo therapy: From the series "Hiding by Joking", 1989

Vintage C-type print

5 x Photo therapy: Narratives of Disease 1989

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Service, 1989

Vintage C-type print

4x Photo therapy: Libido Uprising, 1989

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Libido Uprising, 1989

8x Vintage C-type prints

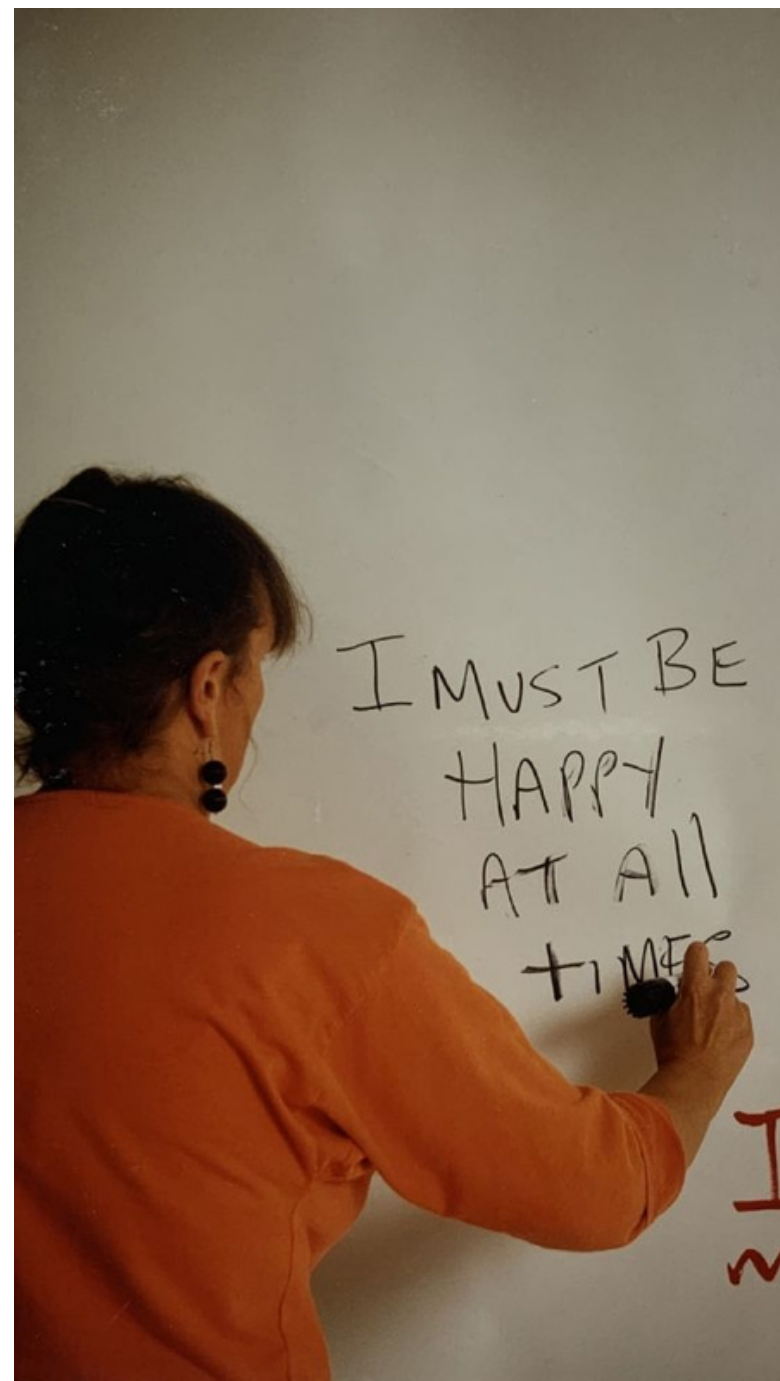




Photo therapy: Greedy, 1989

4 x Vintage C-type prints

2 x Photo therapy: from the "Unbecoming Mother" series, 1989

Vintage C-type print

Photo therapy: Not Our Class (from a session on class), 1989

Vintage C-type print

4 x Photo therapy: Not Wanted (from the series Triple Somersaults), 1989

Vintage C-type print

10 x Opening Up the Family Album, 1989

Album page

Opening Up the Family Album (Jo Eating), 1989

Album cover

Photo therapy: Heights of Achievement (or The Good Student?), c.1985

Vintage C-type print



