

REPORT
EVIL
LITERATURE.

Spare Rib Archive
(BRITISH LIBRARY)

CENSORSHIP OF PUBLICATIONS ACT
1929

VIDEO CLIP
Fahrenheit 451 (1966) by François Truffaut

Digital zine
/

Usually or Infrequently Indecent or Obscene is a limited edition leporello and its digital counterpart produced by Soft Fiction Projects in collaboration with young people aged 16+ involved in shout! and CAPE Youth Projects, Galway.

The project is the result of two DIY graphic design workshops, held remotely via Zoom in October 2020, exploring feminist censorship of sexual expression on the island of Ireland.

All underlined words are hyperlinks

Excerpts of project are displayed at the front window of Galway City Library during TULCA Festival of Visual Arts.

BANSHEE
IRISH LEFT ARCHIVE

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Sophia Doherty
Queef May
Ailbhe Moore
Ruby Ni Dhubbhlaine
Molly Terrins

With Lisa Cannon from shout! and CAPE Youth Projects

Week 12th-18th October 2020
Workshop material packs delivered to participants

WORKSHOP PACK_extract//////////

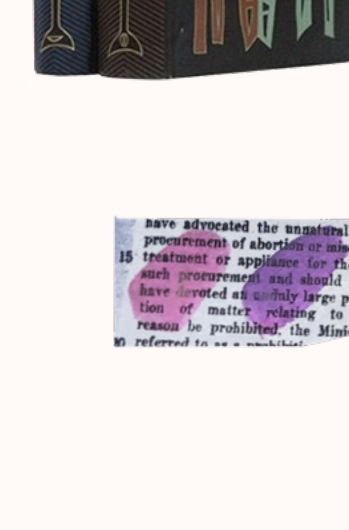
A short article detailing the direct action Irish Women United undertook to share the publication with women living in the Republic of Ireland. They purchased the magazine in Northern Ireland and return by train to distribute the publication amongst women in the Republic - Valentines Day 1977. The organization set up to supply sell the publication on the streets of Dublin. Subsequently they organised a rally on the streets of Dublin on Parnell Square on International Women's day that same year.



VIDEOS CLIP
Rosie Boycott (co-founder of Spare Rib publication, sharing the story of the beginning of the publication).

WORKSHOP 1
Saturday 24th October
12noon-2pm

- House Rules
- Name / Preferred Pronouns
- Historic Censorship of Publications Act 1929
- Direct action: Irish Women United & Spare Rib in Ireland



The principle of censorship

What is your attitude toward censorship as a matter of principle? On grounds of morality, I think it's absurd. There is a kind of panoply of ignorance about literature. Rubbish fills the bookshelves, but no one cares about that. Let's up the standard of literature; let's burn your typical titivating, shallow, cumulative best seller. These things are, however...

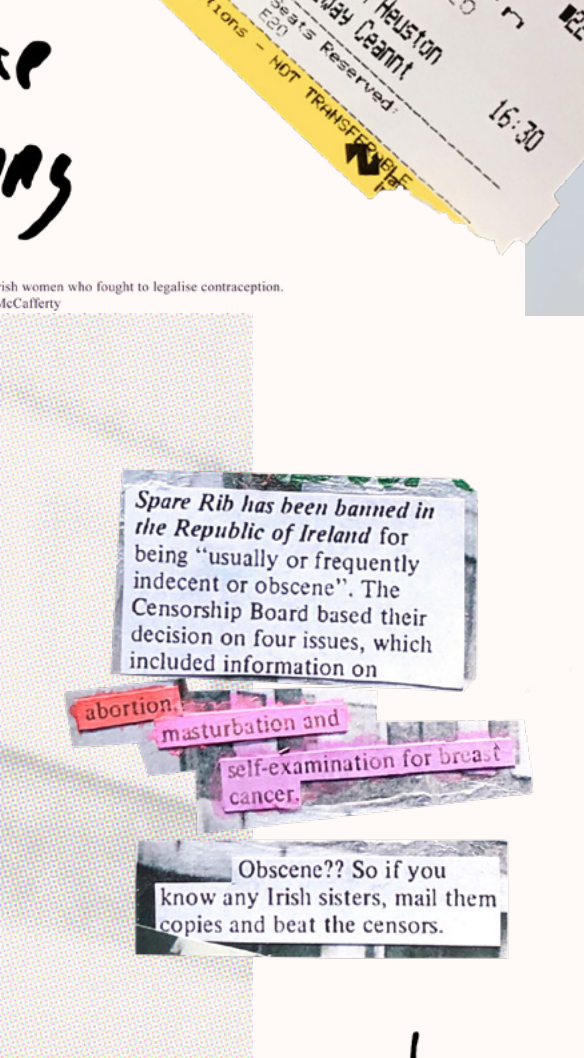


VIDEO CLIP
BBC Interview with Nell McCafferty (born 28 March 1944) is an Irish journalist, playwright, civil rights campaigner and feminist.

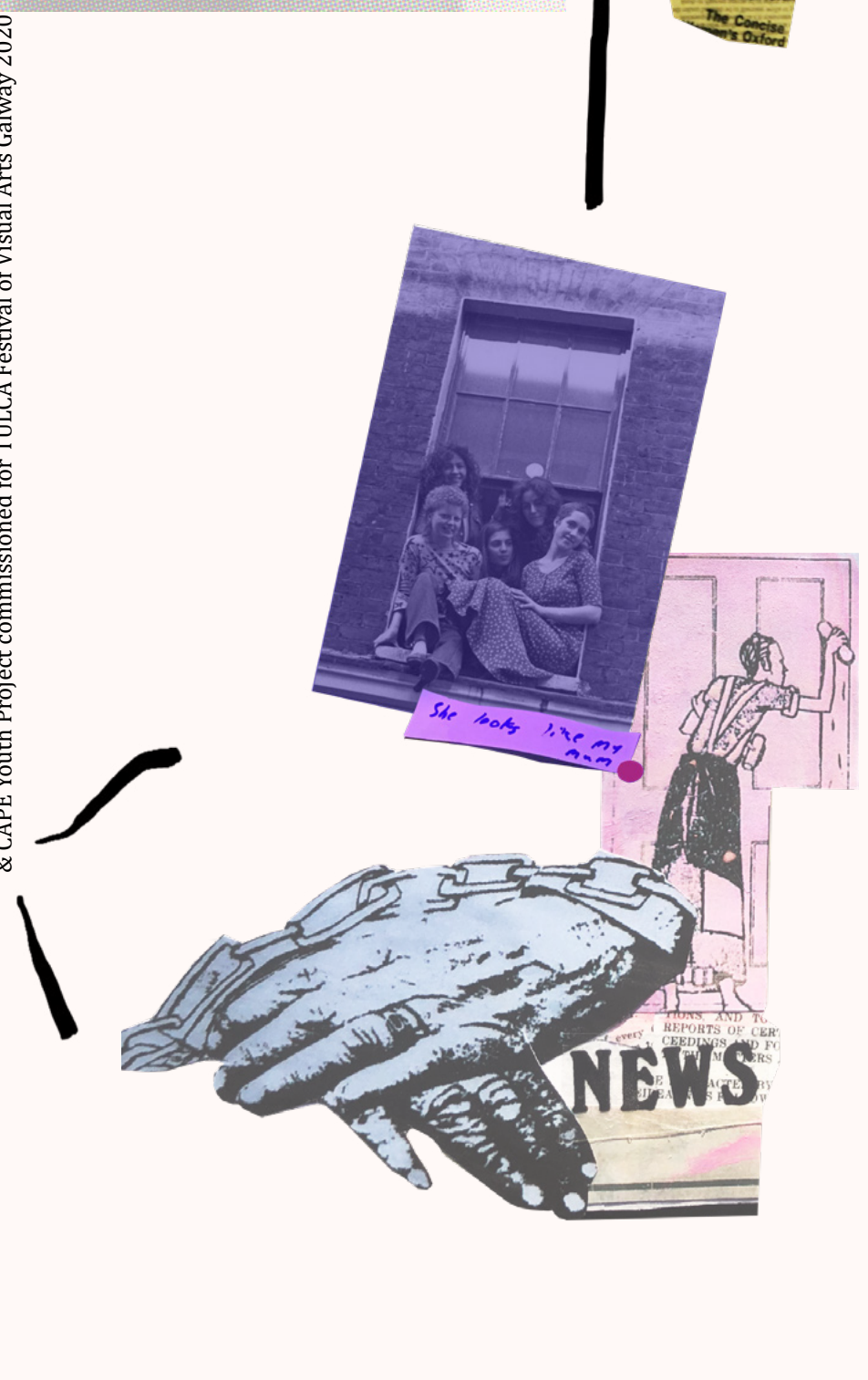


WORKSHOP 2
Saturday 31st October
12noon-2pm

- Sharing personal responses
- Open discussion
- Collective editing session



The Irish women who fought to legalize contraception. Nell McCafferty



Illustrating the absence of gender equality in The Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

WORKSHOP KIT MATERIAL CREDITS

- GCN (Gay Community News), Magazine, February 1996. Pag. 1 and pag. 3. Source: Irish Left Archive, online archive, LGBTQ+ collection.
- Badges, buttons and stickers - the ephemera of LGBTQ+ life. Source: Irish Queer Archive at National Library of Ireland
- Out magazine, Nr. 6, Oct-Nov 1985, pag. 18. Reference: On Thursday 12 September 1985, Customs & Excise seized 1,500 copies of Breaking Silence and referred the book to Ireland's Censorship of Publications Board. (The book was subsequently released.)
- Breaking Silence, co-edited by two American lesbians, Rosemary Gurb and Nancy Manahan, contained over 50 essays by gay women who had been or were still nuns at the time of publication. Controversy seemed to follow the book wherever it was published and promoted. (Tonia Walsh, Irish Queer Archive). Source: Periodicals Collection, IQA/National Library of Ireland
- 'Gays: After Fairview', The Sunday Press, 13.03.1983
- 'Abortion Information Now!' Dublin, 1984; A3 poster, photocopy. Designer unattributed, unknown. Source: Ephemera Collection, IQA/National Library of Ireland
- 'Report of the Committee on Evil Literature', Dáil Éireann, 1927. The Committee on Evil Literature was a committee set up by the Irish Free State's Department of Justice in 1926 to look into censorship of printed matter. Two years after the Censorship Board was established.
- Cover of Censorship of Publication Act 1929 (not original edition)
- First edition of 'The Second Sex', Simone de Beauvoir, 1949. Banned by the Irish Censorship Board. Source: Creative Commons.
- First edition of 'The Country Girls Trilogy', Edna O'Brien. Banned by the Irish Censorship Board, 1964. Source: Creative Commons.
- Executive Suite, film, 1954. Banned by the Irish Censorship Board. Source: Creative Commons.
- Spare Rib, Feminist UK Magazine, Covers issue 55 (1977) and issue 56 (1977). Source: British Library Online, Spare Rib Collection.
- Photograph of embroidered table runner 'We Can't Spare Rosie' ©Ruthie Petrie Creative Commons Non-Commercial Licence. Source: British Library Online, Spare Rib Collection.
- Spare Rib, Issue 33 pp 4,5, 'How and why does Spare Rib work as a collective?' by Marsha Rowe. Source: British Library Online, Spare Rib Collection.
- Facsimile of Spare Rib manifesto 1972 © Marsha Rowe Creative Commons Non-Commercial Licence. Source: British Library Online, Spare Rib Collection.
- Spare Rib, issue 52 (1976), p. 26. Photo of Mairead Corrigan (p.26) and photo of Army raid in the Ardoyne © Derek Bowie. Source: British Library Online, Spare Rib Collection.
- Banshee, Journal of Irishwomen United, Issue 7, 1977; front cover. Image copyright: photographer unknown. Source: May Day Rooms (London).
- Banshee, Journal of Irishwomen United, Vol.1 No.2 (1976), detail of front cover. Author of illustration unknown. Source: May Day Rooms (London).
- Banshee, Journal of Irishwomen United, Vol.1 No.3 (1976), detail of front cover. Author of illustration unknown. Source: May Day Rooms (London).
- Banshee, Journal of Irishwomen United, Issue 7 (1977) editorial, pag. 1. Source: May Day Rooms (London)
- 'Report of the Committee on Evil Literature', Dáil Éireann, 1927. Source: May Day Rooms (London)
- Spare Rib, Issue 56 (1977), p. 1 (editorial) Source: British Library Online, Spare Rib Collection.
- 'Chains or Change' Irish Women Liberation Movement, Manifesto, 1971. Source: http://womenshistoryscotland.ie/

Thank you to

- + Sophia Doherty
- + Queef May
- + Ailbhe Moore
- + Ruby Ni Dhubbhlaine
- + Molly Terrins
- + facilitator Lisa Cannon from shout! & CAPE Youth Projects
- + Sarah Browne curator of Tulca 2020 Projects
- + TULCA Festival of Visual Arts Galway

Soft Fiction Projects © 2020

