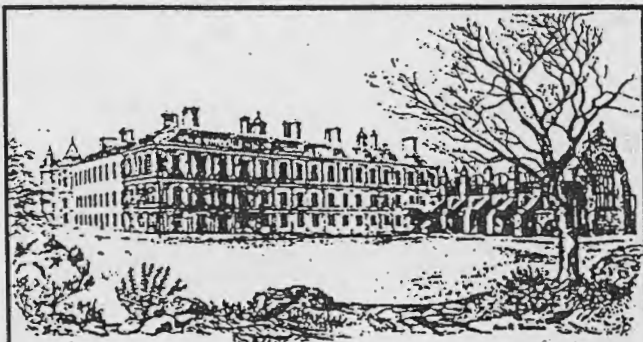


during the interval since - we are assured - nothing much happened in the capital at that time.

The drama hinges on a series of episodes such as when the R101 airship flew over Edinburgh, the rise of the anti-

themepark for tourists where the last resident of the Royal Mile is brought out for show.

Reminiscence can often paint the past in a glowing light which forgets the very bad points. But "Changed Days" is aware of this trap



PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

Holyroodhouse is the Queen's official residence in Scotland and is open to the public throughout the year, except during the Royal Visit in July and the Lord High Commissioner's residence in May.

The State rooms have furniture, tapestries and furnishings from the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries, and the Historic Apartments, where Mary Queen of Scots lived, are in the 16th Century Tower Palace of James V.

The ticket office is open Monday to Saturday from 0930-1715 and Sundays from 1030-1630.

Guided tours start approximately every 10 minutes.

State Apartments close on Monday, 6th May
Historic Apartments close on Monday, 13th May

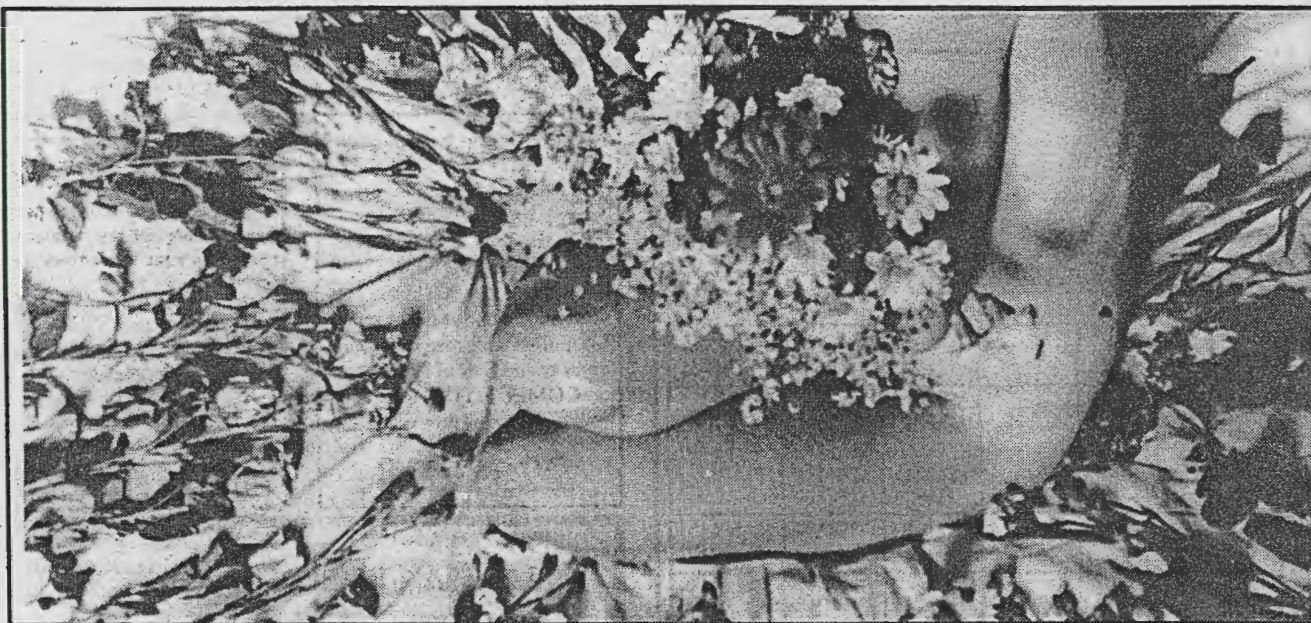
Both will re-open on Wednesday, 29th May.

Evening tours of the Palace for groups may be arranged on application to:-

The Superintendent,
Palace of Holyroodhouse,
Edinburgh
EH8 8DX

Tel: 031-556 1096

VISUAL HEALING



"Selfishness" by Claire Collison.

Review

SILENT HEALTH - Stills Gallery, High Street

What makes women ill? Why do so many still suffer in silence? SILENT HEALTH - an exhibition running at Stills Gallery (till May 18) - tackles issues of women's attitudes towards their bodies and their health through photo-installation, photo-montage, and taped interviews, on audio-cassette, which you can sit down and listen to in a peaceful corner of the exhibition while viewing the 'set' as a whole.

For many women health and ill-health are complex states arising from a web of social, psychological and environmental factors. This is an exhibition for women of all ages and particularly for those over forty or fifty who did not have such open discussion of female health available to them when they were younger.

The first images to hit the viewer in the photo-montage are those of Barbara Cartland and Buchi Emecheta audaciously set side by side to provide maximum effect in their visual contrast. Cartland in her cloud of pink chiffon and sequins, however, states in her interview that she couldn't do as much as she does at almost 90 if she had not been on HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) for years. And in her over-the-top, dramatic way says that you have to fight for what you want as often

"wicked doctors" refuse to prescribe it. In contrast, the African writer, Buchi Emecheta, with her wonderfully strong face states quietly that women in Nigeria look upon the menopause as "a time to branch out and develop."

Melanie Friend's interviews with different women (all of which can also be read in a folder in the exhibition) highlight the contrasts between women of different personalities, different ages and of different cultural backgrounds.

What is most interesting about this exhibition is that it is thought-provoking and that it airs subjects which would have been taboo twenty years ago. In a quiet corner, off the main exhibition area, almost like a temple with its candle wall lights and altar-like table, Clare Collinson has her sweating table in a central place of honour. There's a touch of humour in her photo-montage "Peeling Potatoes in Paradise/Musn't Waste Time".

To my mind this exhibition would be best seen in conjunction with the OPEN FORUM SEMINAR, "VISUAL HEALING - Working on Women's Health" on SATURDAY 11 MAY, 1-5 pm Admission £3 (£1.50).

The seminar is organised to co-incide with the SILENT HEALTH exhibition and is supported by the Scottish Health Education Group. It will include Melanie Friend, artist, Julia Simpson, co-editor of the NUCPS journal, and writer and reviewer Lorna Waite.

Fiona Morrison

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