

CAMERAWORK is pleased to announce a new project, and would like to invite proposals from artists/photographers.

The Arts Council of Great Britain are providing funding for five commissions, which will be included in a major group show called SILENT HEALTH, and which will subsequently tour nationally.

If you wish to apply, a written proposal should be submitted, accompanied by examples of your most recent work (please note: applications without visual support will not be considered).

For further details of the project, please see attached brief.

SILENT HEALTH

PRESS RELEASE

by 6pm
FRIDAY
@ 10.

Gallery & Darkroom

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CAMERAWORK is pleased to invite proposals for the following project:

SILENT HEALTH: WOMEN, HEALTH AND REPRESENTATION

BACKGROUND

6 women die every day in Britain from cervical cancer: 15,000 yearly from breast cancer - just two of the 'silent epidemics' suffered by women in modern times. A major proportion of these deaths are easily preventable - yet can they be attributed solely to the market economics of the health service?

It is crucial to understand how historical discourses and cultural representations have worked to problematize women's lived relations to their bodies. In a culture where disease has been metaphorically equated with women - to the extent that biological femininity has itself been viewed as a pathological condition - is it surprising that women's health-care is still characterized by a lack of resources and understanding?

AIMS OF THE EXHIBITION

- this exhibition aims to produce a body of original photographic-based work which addresses the conflicting mass of information surrounding the subject of femininity and health. We will be looking for work which analyses the role of dominant representations in complicating women's attitudes towards their bodies and their health, and which challenges accepted ideas about health and health-care.

- the selected work will not only interrogate cultural myths and stereotypes pertaining to the female body and its health, but will invent a new imagery which strives to find new ways of putting across information with accuracy, sensitivity and imagination.

- this project aims to heighten awareness in as wide an audience as possible, and to this end, it is anticipated that the exhibition will embrace a diversity of means of expression - ranging from accessible, campaigning-type imagery, to more experimental or personalised approaches.

SOME OF THE SUBJECT AREAS WHICH MAY BE AMONGST THOSE CONSIDERED BY APPLICANTS

- historically, the female body has been the site of restraints and even bodily deformations practised in the name of medicine (eg. infibulation, radical mastectomy, the Victorian 'rest cure'). Does conventional medicine continue to be another means for the operation of patriarchal power?

- class and race as determining factors in unequal health-care

- what is the truth about women's disorders such as anorexia, bulimia and tranquiliser addiction? Some commentators see media representations of women as the root cause of such conditions - yet why are women uniquely and pathologically susceptible to the media's messages?

- women, health and the workplace: what will be the long-term significance of disorders brought about by the new office technology and working conditions (such as Repetitive Strain injury?)

- women and alternative therapies: a valid alternative to the brutalism of conventional medicine, or a retreat into subjective idealism?

- the gulf between reality and representation: patriarchy has spun many myths around femininity which continue to assert a strong and contradictory hold over women's lives. The female body has been seen, throughout cultural history, as a threat to societal order - mysterious, unpredictable and unsanitary. Women's diseases continue to be erroneously attributed to sexual promiscuity and lack of hygiene - why are these myths still so pervasive and how can they be changed?

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS:

There will be four-five commissions at £1,000 each. This sum is to include materials, production and fees.

EXHIBITION CONTENT:

Work in any photographic-based media will be considered - including installation/time-based media. Size and appropriate framing/hanging should be discussed with the exhibition organiser.

TIMESCALE:

Deadline for submission of proposals:	9 March
Interview/selection of exhibitors:	13 March
Initial work completed for reproduction in publication:	1 July
Exhibition work completed:	10 October
Exhibition opens.	24 October

ADVISORY GROUP:

An advisory group is currently being formed, and will be responsible for considering applications and selecting commissions.

If you require further details about this project, or feel you will have difficulty reaching the stated deadlines, but would still like to apply please contact Kate Bush or Viv Reiss at Camerawork, 121 Roman Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 OGN 01- 980 6256.