

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

EXHIBITION GUIDE

INCOGNITO

COSEY FANNI TUTTI

3 OCTOBER 2025 – 25 JANUARY 2026
SPACE 2

Official Partners



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Incognito is the embodiment of multiple identities originally constructed by Cosey Fanni Tutti to function within the glamour industry between 1973 and 1981. The industry comprised modelling agencies, softporn magazine publishers and their distributors, as well as a network of venues: studios, pubs and clubs across London.

This eponymous exhibition brings together film, vinyl music, costumes, performance documentation, press cuttings, and correspondence; many rare material items from Cosey's personal archive never previously exhibited.

In 1977, prompted by a conversation with two girls while modelling for a magazine shoot, Cosey began researching her striptease act. She successfully auditioned as Scarlet, a pseudonym adopted for her stage act by which she was signed by entertainment agency GEMINI. Having designed and made her own costumes, selected the 7" vinyl records for her acts, she began work as a topless dancer across London, principally in its pubs.

Cosey simultaneously continued her modelling, dancing, art actions and work with Throbbing Gristle. The points of correspondence and divergence which these worlds offered was something which Cosey was privately exploring. Her body was the primary material of her art actions, modelling and dancing - the convergence of which is presented in the 18 part photowork *Life Forms*.

Woman's Roll comprises a 30 part black and white photo-sequence documenting Cosey's first autonomous action at the A.I.R Gallery in 1976. In this serialised self-portrayal she is liberated from the dictats and protocols of the glamour industry. These solo performances were contemporaneous to and synergistic with sonic performances and recordings by Throbbing Gristle which had emerged from COUM Transmissions at their exhibition *Prostitution* at the ICA the same year.

In 1979 Cosey asked fellow artist and Throbbing Gristle member

Sleazy (aka Peter Christopherson) to photographically document her complete wardrobe of striptease costumes. The shoot took place at Hipgnosis, a studio where Sleazy worked as a graphic designer, based in London's Denmark Street, renowned for designing album covers for luminaries of mainstream rock - Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, UFO and T Rex, to name but a few.

Harmonic COUMaction, a mutating autobiographical collage of Cosey's life in Hull, was made to be projected as part of a commissioned live performance for Hull City of Culture, 2017. Cosey composed the soundtrack live on stage at the Fruit venue, Hull. Behind each costume, record, magazine image and art action, is a story, a memorable incident, a person, a conversation. It all began in Hull.

Incognito is curated by Cosey Fanni Tutti and Cabinet Gallery, London

COSEY'S HISTORY

- 1969 COUM Transmissions art collective founded and lived at 'Fun House' on Wellington Street and 'Alien Brain' at 8 Prince Street, Hull.
First performance 'Clockwork Hot Spoiled Acid Test' at Hull University Union.
- 1973 Cosey moves to London and begins her modelling.
- 1974 COUM Transmissions participated in art exhibitions and festivals across the UK and Europe.
- 1975 Throbbing Gristle formed.
Launch of Industrial Records label.
Cosey's modelling project continues.
- 1976 First live performance of Throbbing Gristle. A.I.R Gallery London 6th July.
Cosey's solo action 'Woman's Roll' at A.I.R Gallery London 7th July.
COUM Transmissions retrospective exhibition 'Prostitution' at the I.C.A London and the official launch of Throbbing Gristle.
- 1977 'The Second Annual Report' released on Industrial Records.
Cosey's Striptease project begins. Her modelling project continues.
- 1979 Cosey's three day art action 'ACTION' Hayward Gallery London.
'20 Jazz Funk Greats' released on Industrial Records.
Throbbing Gristle's '24 Hours' cassette boxed set released on Industrial Records.
- 1981 Chris & Cosey formed.
First Chris & Cosey LP, 'Heartbeat', released on Rough

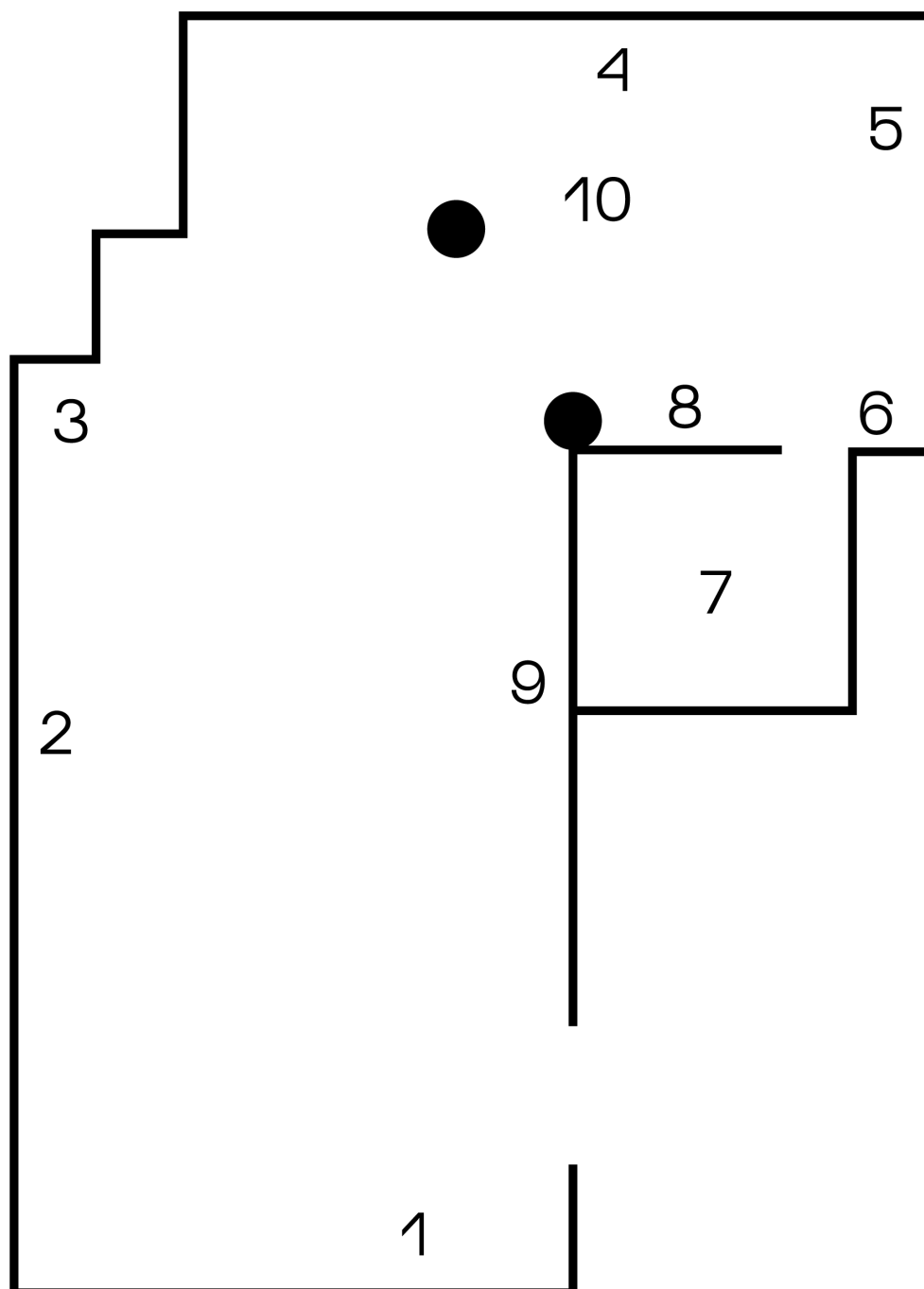
Trade Records.

- 1983 CHRIS & COSEY release 'October (Love Song)' on Rough Trade Records, an influential moment in electronic music.
Chris & Cosey tour Europe, USA, and Canada.
Cosey's first solo cassette album, 'Time To Tell', released on Flowmotion.
- 1984 Cosey's 'SUCH IS LIFE' performance at Violent Silence Festival, Bloomsbury Theatre, London, UK.
- 1985 'OPINIONS' action at Zap Club, Brighton, UK.
- 1986 'Ritual Awakening' action at Zap Club for the Taboo Festival of Eroticism.
- 1987-91 Chris & Cosey touring Europe, USA, and Canada.
- 1994 'SELECT REFLECTIONS 1' commissioned video for broadcast by Canal Plus TV , France.
'SELECT REFLECTIONS 2' commissioned video for Sonar Festival, Spain.
- 1995 Cosey on 'SMUT FEST' discussion panel chaired by Tuppy Owens at Confessions Gallery, Islington, London, UK.
- 1998 'Out of Actions: Between Performance and the Object, 1949-1979' at MOCA Vienna, Austria, a major exhibition examining the relationship between performance and objects.
- 1999 Lecture at University of Wolverhampton, UK.
- 2001 Lecture at University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, UK.
- 2002 Throbbing Gristle regroup for 'TG24' exhibition at Cabinet Gallery, London.
'SELFLESSNESS' action series begins.

- 2007 'WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution' group exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.
- 2010 Throbbing Gristle's final live performance at Village Underground, London.
'Cosey Complex', a one-day conference at I.C.A London, conceived by writer Maria Fusco.
- 2017 'COUM Transmissions', first major retrospective exhibition, Humber Street Gallery, Hull.
'COSEY FANNI TUTTI' exhibition, Cabinet Gallery, London.
'Art, Sex, Music' written by Cosey published by Faber.
- 2019 'TUTTI' solo album, released on Conspiracy International.
- 2022 'Re-Sisters: : The Lives and Recordings of Delia Derbyshire, Margery Kempe and Cosey Fanni Tutti' published by Faber.
- 2023 'WOMEN IN REVOLT! ART AND ACTIVISM IN THE UK 1970-1990' exhibition, Tate Britain, London.
- 2025 '2T2', Cosey's latest solo album, released on Conspiracy International.
Cosey received Innovator award at Artist Independent Music Awards for her radical work in art and music.
'Incognito' exhibition, Humber Street Gallery, Hull.

FLOORPLAN

SPACE 2



1. Pub of the Year

2. 7" singles and
Cosey's selection.

3. Diary Entries

4. Lifeforms

5. Women's Roll

6. Hayward Gallery
Poster

7. Harmonic
COUMaction

8. Incognito
Photographs

9. Incognito
Costumes

10. Archive material

RELATED ACTIVITY

INCOGNITO EXHIBITION TALKS

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER, FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER, FRIDAY 9 JANUARY

12PM-12.30PM

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

TICKETED, FREE

Would you like to learn more about our current exhibitions? Join the staff at Humber Street Gallery to hear more of the stories, ideas, and thoughts behind the work on display at our lunchtime exhibition talks.

STEWART BAXTER: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025

6 - 9PM

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

TICKETED, £5

Join experimental composer and curator Stewart Baxter (BØMBED BUILDINGS / DØTE) for an evening of conversation, sound, and reflection.

Stewart Baxter is a Hull-based multidisciplinary artist, composer, and sound-maker, working under the alias BØMBED BUILDINGS. Through Bombed Buildings he creates immersive, meditative soundscapes built from prepared loops, samples, and effected instruments. His commissioned works for organisations including Freedom Festival, Hull City Council, and Help Musicians UK have responded to architecture, memory, and community voice. Stewart also curates DØTE, an experimental label and event series that platforms adventurous sound and interdisciplinary art, building opportunities for under-represented artists in Hull and beyond.

**LISTEN WITH OTHERS PRESENTS: AN INTRODUCTION
TO MODULAR SYNTHESIS WORKSHOP
THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER
6 - 9PM
HUMBER STREET GALLERY
TICKETED, £5**

A total beginner's introduction to modular synthesis using VCV Rack, which is a free virtual modular synth environment. No prior experience needed, just an interest in manipulating sound. Participants need a laptop that can run VCV Rack and a pair of headphones.

**LISTENING PARTY
THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER
6 - 9PM
HUMBER STREET GALLERY
TICKETED, £5**

With audiophile and Throbbing Gristle fanatic Andrew Pearson. Andrew will play a selection of Cosey's solo work, Chris & Cosey, Throbbing Gristle and other related music, while also telling the history and ongoing influential nature of this groundbreaking work.

**LISTEN WITH OTHERS AT HUMBER STREET GALLERY
THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2025
6 - 9PM
HUMBER STREET GALLERY
TICKETED, £5**

Listen With Others is a shared listening experience that usually takes place at Ground, Beverley Road. A diverse mix of artistic, alternative, and experimental pre-recorded sound-based work will be presented throughout the evening – some short, some

long, and some things in between. The listening will be focused, with breaks for informal reflections and discussion.

**THURSDAY LATES: LISTEN WITH OTHERS PRESENTS
LISTEN WITH OTHERS LIVE
THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2026
6 - 9PM
HUMBER STREET GALLERY
TICKETED, £5**

Curated by Jay Moy.

Listen With Others Live is part of an ongoing series dedicated to experimental approaches to sound featuring live presentations of new and exploratory work in music and sound art.

For more information on previous Listen With Others events visit <https://jaymoy.co.uk/listen-with-others/> or email listenwithothers@gmail.com

ABOUT US

Humber Street Gallery is an Absolutely Cultured project.

Originally established in 2017 as part of the City of Culture programme, it has developed into a vibrant, high-quality contemporary visual art space for Hull. It is now a significant contributor to the contemporary visual arts offer in the north.

Our ambition for Humber Street Gallery is to further develop the venue into a multi-artform and multifunctional creative centre, showcasing a wide range of art and activities providing something for everyone from visual art, dance, music to spoken word. Increasingly the space will be used to showcase more work by local as well as national and international practitioners.

We also aim to develop more visual art programming that happens outside of the gallery in the city's public spaces, in underused buildings and in local neighbourhoods.

CONTACT US

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If you would like to support our work, you can do so at absolutelycultured.co.uk



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OPENING TIMES

Wednesday: 10:30am - 5pm

Thursday: 12pm - 7pm

Friday: 10:30am - 5pm

Saturday: 10:30am - 5pm

Sunday: 10:30am - 5pm