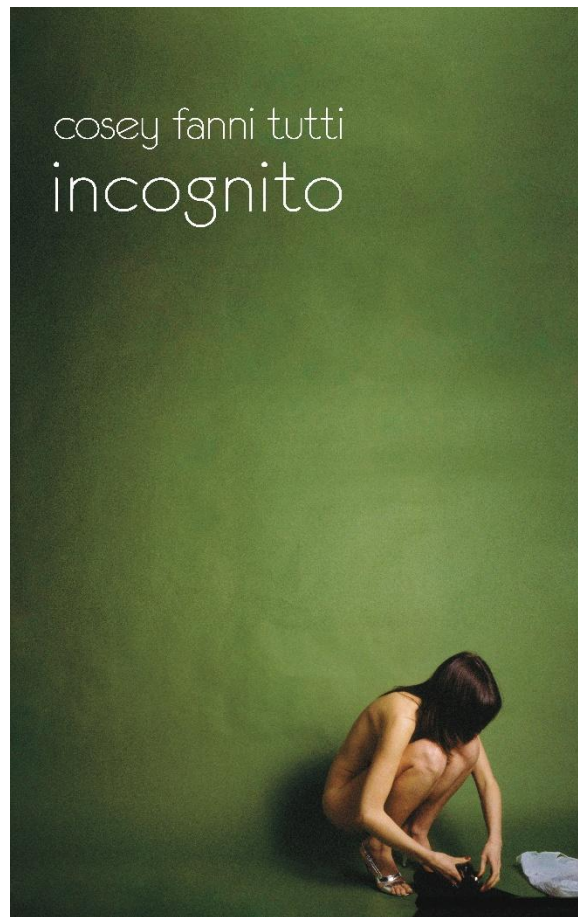


HUMBER
STREET
GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

Incognito a new exhibition by
Cosey Fanni Tutti opens October at
Humber Street Gallery



Exhibition Launch Event
Thursday 2 October 2025, 6-9pm
Humber Street Gallery, Hull.

Print and broadcast media are invited to get in touch with bronte.teal@absolutelycultured.co.uk with requests for interview.

- ***Incognito* is a new exhibition by artist Cosey Fanni Tutti opening at Humber Street Gallery in October 2025, curated by Cosey Fanni Tutti and Cabinet Gallery, London.**
- **Exhibition Launch: Thursday 2 October 2025, 6-9pm at Humber Street Gallery.**
- **Exhibition Dates: Friday 3 October 2025 – Sunday 25 January 2026.**

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, soft-porn 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 photo-work *Life Forms*.

Woman's Roll comprises a 30 part black and white photo-sequence documenting Cosey's first autonomous action at the Air 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.

-END-

Notes for Editors

Images

Image caption: Image © Cosey Fanni Tutti, Cabinet Gallery, London.
Image is available upon request.

Absolutely Cultured

Absolutely Cultured is a registered charity which exists to create opportunity and space for amazing creative experiences to happen, for everyone. Built on the foundations of the company which delivered Hull's year as UK City of Culture 2017, Absolutely Cultured continues to play a leading role in Hull's future and in the wider UK arts ecology.

Known for presenting exceptional contemporary visual art in the broadest sense, Absolutely Cultured is not bound by artform or location. Working across three core strands – Arts Programming, Community Engagement & Learning, and Artist Development, Absolutely Cultured connects people, their communities and their place, through creativity.

Underpinning its programming at Humber Street Gallery, in places and spaces across Hull and in Hull's communities, is a commitment to develop access to cultural opportunities for the city, its residents and for creative practitioners. All projects therefore carry a learning and engagement principle, enhancing Hull's cultural offer and increasing the relevance and value of the arts to the city and UK wide.

Media information

Bronte Teal | Absolutely Cultured | bronte.teal@absolutelycultured.co.uk

Matt Walton | Absolutely Cultured | Matthew.walton@absolutelycultured.co.uk

