

MEDIA RELEASE

West Country-based photographer announces '80s subculture series "Visible Girls" show at leading London Venue

(Metro Front of House Gallery, Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0NB 14th April – 27th May 2016)

Somerset-based photographer Anita Corbin, together with premier photographic lab, Metro Imaging, are displaying Anita's infamous early 80s subculture series "Visible Girls" in its prestigious Clerkenwell front of house gallery as part of the yearlong PunkLondon celebrations.



Kath and Em at home in Putney October 1980 Visible Girls

The "Visible Girls" collection now forms part of the documentary section of Anita's latest project, First Women*, which will be unveiled in 2018 and looks at how women will be remembered over the past 100 years. In the early 1980s, inspired by the feminist

movement, Anita created her "Visible Girls, a study of girls in subcultures 1980-1981", to capture the blossoming of young women's identity and their freedom to be who they wanted to be.



Jill and friend The Blitz nightclub, Covent Garden Dec 1980 Visible Girls

"The collection is a series of double portraits looking at girls in subcultures and includes eight never-before-seen double portraits from the original series. Female subjects for the series included rude girls, rockabillies, mods, skinheads, and some "less defined" female groups including soul, Rasta, punk and futurist,

as well as those involved "in and around the women's liberation movement." Anita

discovered that for these young women belonging to a subculture was not just a weekend hobby, but a way of life.

Herself a young 'soft punk' photographer in 1980's London, Anita was drawn to the unique styles of the women around her. In the 1981 introduction to her work she wrote: "I have chosen to focus on girls, not because the boys (where present) were any less stylish but because girls in 'subcultures' have been largely ignored or when referred to, only as male appendages."

Thirty five years ago Anita's photographs were part of a travelling exhibition organized by the Cockpit Gallery Project and then Camerawork until 2004 - but they have never been seen altogether at a London exhibition. The eye-catching collection of portraits serves as a study of how young women in subcultures showcased their identity as individuals, and as part of youth tribes.

Anita says, "The 80s saw the unveiling of subcultures that embraced more women orientated women. In some cases these groups adopted an androgynous style of dressing which was unusual at that time – a certain blurring of gender which has now become much more mainstream 35 years later."

Anita has a long-standing relationship with Metro Imaging, having worked with the business when she was a photographic journalist based in London and a freelancer for the Sunday Times and several other national newspapers.

Kate O'Neill from Metro Imaging commented, "Metro Imaging has been championing Anita's work for a number of years, culminating in a curated exhibition that reveals many unseen and original images from the clubs and streets of London." The exhibition includes a mixture of framed C type and vinyl prints alongside original contact sheet and prints from the 80s.

Anita hopes the exhibition may serve to stimulate people's memories having also launched a quest to find the original "Visible Girls" with a view to "revisiting" their lives 35 years later for a follow-up show in 2017. <http://1stwomenuk.co.uk/2016/01/06/visible-girls-revisited/>

Picture captions:

Kath and Em at home in Putney, October 1980 ©Anita Corbin

Jill and friend, the Blitz Nightclub, Covent Garden Dec 1980 ©Anita Corbin

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Editor's Notes:

***First Women**

First Women is photographer Anita Corbin's legacy of inspirational photographs of ordinary women in the 21st century who have achieved extraordinary things. Due to launch in 2018 to mark 100 years of Women's Suffrage, Anita is creating and curating 100 iconic portraits of 21st century women who have achieved the landmark title "First Woman" across a range of fields. Her vision is to provide answers to important questions that will be posed at that historic juncture: "How will women be remembered over the past 100 years?" "What have women achieved in the fields of Sport, Science, Politics, the Arts and Education?" "Who were these remarkable "first" women"?

April 2016 (FW 021)