

Those Were The Decades
1970s: Politics and Protest
Saturday 14 June, 11am-9pm
Library of Birmingham

Those Were The Decades is a series of special events planned to reflect on the five decades of Ikon Gallery's history. Each event examines the social, political and cultural context of Ikon's work within one decade, through talks, debates and film screenings.

Those Were The Decades continues on Saturday 14 June with *1970s: Politics and Protest*, the second in Ikon's engaging retrospective series.

The day begins with an illustrated talk by Dr Chris Moores entitled *No future?: The Politics of Crisis in 1970s Britain*. Dr Moores, a Fellow in Modern British History at the University of Birmingham, will discuss the 70s as a 'watershed decade' in post-war Britain, exploring cultural politics and narratives of crisis.

A panel discussion will subsequently take place between definitive members of the 70s art scene, chaired by Ikon Director Jonathan Watkins. The artist Ian Emes, former Ikon Gallery Director Simon Chapman, former Arts Lab co-ordinator Peter Stark and Jeanette Koch will all contribute.

Over a lunch break visitors will be offered the chance to see a special exhibition of Daniel Meadow's ground-breaking *Early Photographic Works*, exploring Meadow's astonishing record of British urban society and his role in spearheading the independent photography movement of the early 1970s.

This will be followed by two illustrated talks on art and 70s music culture. *Popular Political Sexual Raw* from Johnny Goldring – Professor of Philosophy & Fine Art at Birmingham Institute of Art & Design and Director of the Centre for Fine Art Research (CFAR) – will take listeners on a musical 'walk on the wild side'. Afterwards, Ian Emes will present his pioneering animated film *French Windows (1972)*: the work which introduced and established the style for subsequent Pink Floyd animations.

A film screening and Q&A session will then be held on *Motorcity Music Years: Birmingham Blues*. Directed by Jonnie Turpie, this 30 minute film presents the rise of Glam Rock and Heavy metal from the emergence of Slade, Black Sabbath and Judas Priest from Birmingham, to the birth of bands such as the Electric Light Orchestra, and Roy Wood's Wizzard, who bought orchestral music to pop. The following Q&A will bring together the film's producers – Chris Phipps and Roger Shannon – plus former Black Sabbath manager Jim Simpson.



Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 528892

The day culminates with a film screening of Derek Jarman's brilliantly chaotic *Jubilee*. Filmed in the summer of 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, Jarman's work plays with history and perfectly captures the violence and nihilistic swagger of Punk. The film is remarkable for featuring early appearances by pop luminaries as Adam Ant and Toyah Wilcox.

Those Were The Decades forms part of Ikon 50, the series of exhibitions and public events celebrating Ikon's 50th anniversary. Established in 1964 by a group of artists looking for a new, accessible place to share artistic ideas, Ikon has grown to develop a worldwide reputation with an internationalist outlook. Ikon moved to its current Brindley Place venue in 1998, converting the former Victorian school into a contemporary gallery space now welcoming over 130,000 visitors a year.

1970s: Politics and Protest

Saturday 14 June

Heritage Learning Space, Level 4, Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square,
Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2ND

Note to Editors:

1. *Those Were The Decades*' began on 29 March 2014 with *1960s: The Rise of Counterculture*. This included a series of talks and workshops discussing the beginnings of Ikon Gallery and 60s popular culture, alongside screenings of definitive 60s films.
2. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Admission is free.
3. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

For more information, high-res images and to arrange an interview with Director Jonathan Watkins please contact Sophie Campos or Emma Gilhooly at Pelham Communications on 020 8969 3959 or email sophie@pelhamcommunications.com or emma@pelhamcommunications.com

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
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