



**PRESS RELEASE: MAY 2015**

# **SAVE CHANGES**

**BETTINA JOHN, SHEILA RENNICK & PAULA VARJACK**



This exhibition will show a collection of works by Bettina John, Sheila Rennick and Paula Varjack. It maps out the impact that online profiling has on these three female artists and their understanding of themselves. Since the rise of social platforms our sense of personal identity has become more fluid and open to interpretation. People create alter-egos, pseudonyms, heteronyms, avatars, gravatars and edited versions of themselves. Each of these profiles mark a new understanding of one's self. The artists playfully explore the language being used online, explore what lies behind the image and how this translates into real life.

This exhibition will demonstrate the different forms that 'profiling' can take on in various media, ranging from painting, video, photography and performance. New media in particular lends to the creation of another self and so it will be interesting to see paintings by Sheila Rennick within the backdrop of Bettina John and Paula Varjack's new media, performance and installation practise.

## *About the artists:*

Bettina John's work finds its expression mostly in photography, video, performance and installation. She has been working with five Alter Egos, which are active online as well as offline for the past three years with vast activity on platforms such as WordPress, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, Pintarest and Bandcamp. Her background in new media, set and costume design has given her the direction in her art practice, which is visual and performative. It finds its expression in the idea of real life being orchestrated, curated, packed into a profile. Bettina John had work included in various exhibitions in London, Berlin and Rio De Janeiro. She has received two travel bursaries in 2012 and 2013 and the European Design Award in 2008.

Paula Varjack is an artist and creative producer. Her work explores identity, social dynamics, and our relationship with cities. Trained in filmmaking and performance, she enjoys working across and combining; theatre, documentary and spoken word. She has performed at numerous arts festivals and cultural spaces including: Glastonbury Festival, Berlin International Literature Festival, Vault Festival, Chelsea Theatre, The Victoria & Albert Museum, Richmix, Wilton's Music Hall, Battersea Arts Centre, The Southbank Centre, Círculo de Bellas Artes, Musicbox Lisbon, Es Balluard Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Photographer's Gallery. In addition to performing and producing events, she facilitates workshops with a wide range of age groups, using writing prompts and drama games to unblock creativity.

Sheila Rennick was born in Ireland 1983, she graduated with an M.A Painting from Byam Shaw School of Art in 2006 and was selected for Jerwood Contemporary Painters in 2007. She was the first selected artist to exhibit at the National College of Art and Designs new Gallery Space in Dublin with a show called Hot Body/Ugly Face Syndrome in 2010. She also had a solo show at long standing Dublin gallery Hillsboro Fine Art with a show entitled 'A Dogs Dinner' in July 2011. She has participated in group shows in London at Madder 139 White Cross Street, Five Years Gallery, East London and Dialog Space Vyner Street, London. She lives and works in London.

-ENDS-

***Opening reception: Friday 8th May 7-10pm, Free entry***

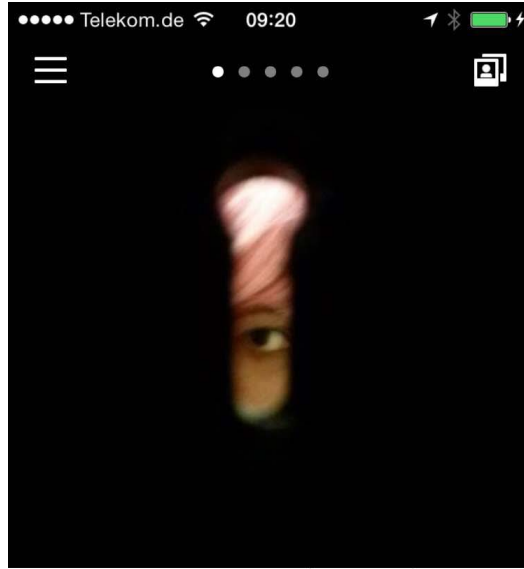
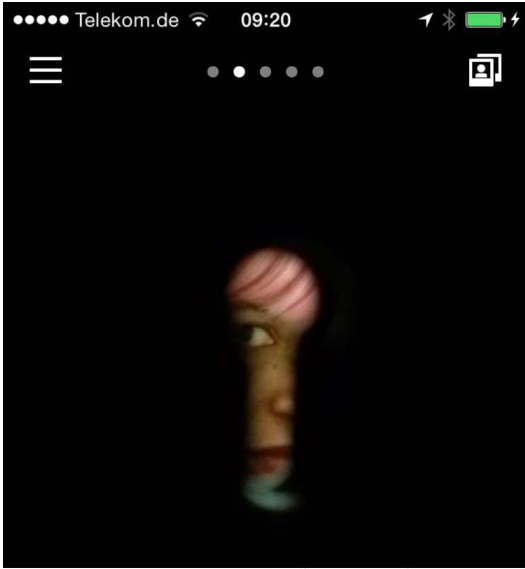
***Opening hours: 7th May - 1st June 2015, 9am-5pm, Free entry***

***Performance: 22nd May, Belinda Evangelica record launch, 6.30pm, Free entry***

***At Stour Space, 7 Roach Road, Tower Hamlets E3 2PA***

***www.stourspace.co.uk | info@stourspace.co.uk | +44 (0)2089857827***

Download high-res images [HERE](#)



Artists:

Top: Bettina John

Middle: Paula Varjack in collaboration with Sebastian Hau-Walker on Drift London Residency

Bottom: Sheila Rennick

High-res images available [HERE](#)

Paula, 36

5 Charms 141 Crushes

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