

# THE SHOW ROOM

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## **Editorial Tables: Reciprocal Hospitalites**

Opening Tuesday 24 January, 6.30–8.30pm

Continues 25 January–18 March 2023

Open Wednesday–Saturday, 12–6pm

## **Public programme in the opening week:**

Wednesday 25 January, 4–8pm

Thursday 26 January, 10am–1pm

*Editorial Tables: Reciprocal Hospitalities* is an exhibition and public programme bringing together the publishing practices of **Ruth Beale, Sezgin Boynik: Rab-Rab Press, Minna Haukka & Kristin Luke: The Mobile Feminist Library, Minna Henriksson, Rose Nordin, and Elham Rahmati & Vidha Saumya: NO NIIN magazine.**

*Editorial Tables* celebrates the production and dissemination of knowledge through the act of independent, experimental and artist-led publishing, with a focus on intersecting feminist and decolonial perspectives. The project involves a range of publishing, archiving, print and distribution practices by artists, curators and art workers; bringing these into relation and dialogue in the lead-up to the realisation of the exhibition at The Showroom.

With this accumulation of matter across contexts and practices, the exhibition brings together artists working with untold or silenced narratives; feminist and leftist movements from across the 20th century that remain urgent in the present; the maintenance of and situated subjective encounters with archives; and embodied processes of sharing knowledge towards decolonial and eco-social futures.

The space of the exhibition therefore aims to open up new connections through live processes of encounter and exchange around printed matter, where visitors are invited to engage and think with the material. There are opportunities to connect, correspond and collaborate during the public programme and over the eight-week duration of the show.

*Editorial Tables: Reciprocal Hospitalities* is a collaborative project between **The Showroom** and **Frame Contemporary Art Finland**, building upon a long-term process of curatorial exchange following the inaugural *Gathering for Rehearsing Hospitalities* in 2019, convened by Frame in Helsinki, Finland; and leading to the establishment of a new partnership for The Showroom with the **Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland**. The exhibition and public programme are co-curated by **Lily Hall** at **The Showroom** and **Yvonne Billimore & Jussi Koitela** at **Frame**.

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Special thanks to **Ruth Beale, Sezgin Boynik, Minna Haukka, Minna Henriksson, Kristin Luke, Rose Nordin, Elham Rahmati** and **Vidha Saumya**.

The installation has been realised by the artists and publishers in collaboration with technicians **Elliott Denny, Ruth Angel Edwards, Alessia Franchi, Duncan Morris, Chris Penty, Clare Rees-Hales, Adam Shield** and **Lucy Woodhouse**. With thanks to the gallery assistant team **Vanya Cantone, Campbell McConnell, Corie McGowan** and **Allan Struthers; Nkara Stephenson** and **Radka Yovcheva**. Thanks further to **Natasha Bird** and **TACO!, Tommy Brentnall, Omar El-Fassi, Richard Elkan, Margherita Huntley** and **Pelham Communications**.

The Showroom core team are **Oana Damir, Lily Hall, Seema Manchanda** and **Gabriela Salgado**. At Frame Finland the core team are **Annabella Antas, Yvonne Billimore, Reishabh Kailey, Jussi Koitela, Raija Koli, Rosa Kuosmanen, Stella Sironen, Francisco Trento, Jaakko Uoti** and **Sari Väänänen**. The Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland are **Karoliina Korpilahti, Neicia Marsh, Jaakko Nousiainen** and **Annika Pellonpää**.

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The collaboration forms part of the core exhibition and public programme at **The Showroom** in 2023; *Rehearsing Hospitalities*, **Frame Contemporary Art Finland's** public programme for 2019–2023; and *Together Again*, a programme by the **Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes**, towards which artist **Minna Henriksson** will further contribute in 2023.

*Rehearsing Hospitalities 2023* is part of the EU-funded project *Islands of Kinship: A Collective Manual for Sustainable and Inclusive Art Institutions*. **The Finnish Academic and Cultural Institutes'** commissioning programme *Together Again* is funded by the Finnish Cultural Foundation and the Wihuri Foundation. The Showroom is supported using public funding by **Arts Council England**.

*A partnership between*

**THE  
SHOW  
ROOM**

**frame** contemporary art  
finland

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## **RUTH BEALE**

Central to artist **Ruth Beale**'s editorial table is her ongoing work with **The Hundred Club**: an experimental creative space for children to use arts and play to explore social justice issues. The Club meet regularly after school in Thamesmead, where sessions are produced in partnership with artist-led organisation *TACO!*

Through collaborative, hands-on activities members of the Club have recently been exploring attitudes and actions in relation to climate justice, anti-war movements, race, disability, gender and civil liberties. They have now published two issues of their newspaper, *WAAAAH!* and will start working on issue three over the course of *Editorial Tables* with a special visit to The Showroom and Church Street on **Saturday 4 February**.

Suspended above the table hang placards and hand-made microphones used in interviews between members of the Club in their DIY TV studio, asking one another, "what would you change?" The table and adjacent notice board are pasted with the Club's illustrated *Manifesto for Climate Action*. Issue #1 of one of *WAAAAH!* is available to browse, and a newly printed edition of issue #2 is free to take away, together with copies of the Manifesto.

The beginnings of a Hundred Club Library, assembled from Ruth Beale's own collections; parents and children from the Club; Goldsmiths the Feminist Library and other local libraries occupy the lower shelves. Suggestions for further reading are welcomed. Covering the tabletop are facsimiles of children's radical publishing from the 1960s-1990s from the archives of **56a Infoshop** and **Bishopsgate Institute**; as well as publications on pedagogy & community media for adults and children, including printed matter from **The Showroom** past programme.

### **List of works**

1. Zine: *No Weapons No War*, By The Hundred Club
2. *WAAAAH!* Issue 1, by **The Hundred Club**. Designed by **Daniel Wilkinson**. Printed by the **Newspaper Club**. Produced by *TACO!*, 2021
3. *WAAAAH!* Issue 2 (reprint); illustrated manifestos, by **The Hundred Club**. Designed with and printed by **Tommy Brentnall**. Produced by **Natasha Bird**, *TACO!*, 2022
4. Reference books (on the tabletop): pedagogy & community media for adults and children
5. Picture books (on the lower shelves): activism and social justice for children
6. Archive facsimiles on the table top under perspex: from **56a Infoshop** and the **Bishopsgate Institute**. See archival credits for a full list of sources
7. Mobile made by members of the Hundred Club: **Dhruva, Henry, Isabella, Leo, Onyi, Shreeja**, 2022-23

## **SEZGIN BOYNIK: RAB-RAB PRESS**

**Rab-Rab Press** is an independent publishing platform based in Helsinki, combining experimental art and leftist politics with scholarly rigour and a punk attitude. **Rab-Rab** was initiated in 2014 and is run by **Sezgin Boynik**.

Rab-Rab's editorial work and publications expose forgotten and marginalised histories and bring together the work of artists and thinkers. The selection of publications on display highlight the value of collectivity, trans-local connections and critical thought. They consider left wing and anti-capitalist politics in practice. The full Rab-Rab Press catalogue of publications could be seen and read, in Boynik's words, as 'a discursive tool for current and future generations struggling against the power of capital'.

### **List of works, colophons and credits**

8. **SHELVES:** A complete set of books published by Rab Rab Press, 2014-2023. See the separate book list for the list of titles.

### 9. **EDITORIAL / EPHEMERA TABLE:**

**Minna Henriksson**, *Early 20th Century Race Science in Finland*, poster and reversible journal cover.

**OEI**, *Publishing Practices #86-87*, 2020

**OEI**, *Sickle of Syntax & Hammer of Tautology, Concrete and Visual Poetry in Yugoslavia #90-91*, 2021

**Sezgin Boynik**, *On Lenin: Atlases, Herbariums, and Rituals*

'Nation Traitors, Love Stories, Fierce Masses', Introduction to the 5th issue of *Rab-Rab, Journal For Political and Formal Inquiries*, #5, 2018

'Coarse Abstraction', Introduction to the 3rd issue of *Rab-Rab, Journal For Political and Formal Inquiries*, #3, 2016

'Noise Against Culture', Introduction to the 2nd issue of *Rab-Rab, Journal For Political and Formal Inquiries*, #2, 2016

'Remembering as Future', Introduction to the 4th issue of *Rab-Rab, Journal For Political and Formal Inquiries*, #4, 2017

**Sezgin Boynik**, *The political History of Rab-Rab Press*, **OEI**, *Publishing Practices #86-87*

10. **SCREEN PRINTS:** Rab-Rab Press, designed by **Ott Kagovere**

## MINNA HENRIKSSON

The *Kiila Feminist Archive / The Wedge* is an archive-as-artwork by artist **Minna Henriksson**. The work involves a long-term and ongoing process of research into the early years of the **Kiila** artists' and writers' association in Finland, which has been running for over eighty years.

The *Kiila Feminist Archive* is compiled of materials which foreground intersecting feminist issues which were fundamental to the founding of Kiila; but which have since been obscured, lost or edited out of its official histories. As an active current member of Kiila, Henriksson continues re-tracing, translating and subjectively situating these feminist orientations through the fiction writing - novels, poems and short stories - of the organisation's founding female members.

National and global politics significantly influenced the course of Kiila. In 1935 they aligned with the *First International Congress of Writers for the Defense of Culture*, held in Paris as a reaction to the burning of books in Nazi Germany. At this time Finland was politically far-right and laws had been put in place to effectively ban pro-communist organisations or activities. It was also a time of increasing militarisation; and was clear early on that Finland would side with Nazi Germany in the forthcoming war. Founded in this heightened environment, Kiila was grounded in values of socialism, anti-fascism and pacifism. During World War Two, forty percent of Kiila members were put into prison; deemed by the State as a preventive measure against the potential sabotage of the war effort.

Four out of seven founding members of Kiila were women: sisters **Aira and Elvi Sinervo, Tyyne Maija Salminen** and **Katri Vala**. Many other female writers and critics were also active in the early years of the organisation. After the Second World War the history of Kiila was written by its notable male members but omitted the role of the women. For Henriksson, the aim of compiling this archive has been to observe the connections between socialist and feminist tendencies in the collective act of organising between artists and cultural workers.

Henriksson's table presents a selection of books by the writers **Tyyne Maija Salminen, Elvi Sinervo, Iris Uurto** and **Katri Vala**, each members of the Kiila association in the 1930's; copies of memo documents from the Kiila archive; and linocut prints illustrating Henriksson's translations from pages of the books are dispersed throughout the exhibition space.

### List of works:

11. *Kiila Feminist Archive*, 2019-23
12. Linocut prints, 2022-23. See titles & translations on each print
13. Selection of twelve books by prominent female Kiila members
14. **iPad/audio**: Discussion held in 2019 among current members of Kiila reflecting on issues raised in the novels *Timanttilakien alla* by Iris Uurto and *Kolmen naisen talo* by Tyyne Maija Salminen. Contributors to the discussion: **Danai Anagnostou, Roxana Crisólogo, Minna Henriksson, Karolina Kucia, Christine Langinauer, Sini Mononen, Leena Pukki, Martta Tuomaala**. Recorded in the Theatre Academy, Helsinki, 2019.

## MINNA HAUKKA AND KRISTIN LUKE: THE MOBILE FEMINIST LIBRARY

The Mobile Feminist Library (MFL) was founded by artists **Minna Haukka** and **Kristin Luke** after meeting at The Showroom in Summer 2018, when the Feminist Library was in residence whilst campaigning for a permanent location in London. The Library had been under threat of eviction from Southwark Council, and the van functioned both as a means to publicise the new library and act as a library site whilst the building was closed. MFL continues to collect materials and respond to the context of each stop-off point, as an intersectional meeting place on the move. Visitors may be invited into the van or to access its collections in the form of installations; in public spaces both indoors and out.

Since 2018 the van has travelled between London, Penmachno village in rural North Wales (where Luke is currently based) and Helsinki. It has also toured exhibition sites with *Still I Rise* at the Arnolfini, Bristol and De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea; and South London Gallery in Peckham.

Here an assemblage of The Mobile Feminist Library collections are brought together, responding to the invitation to bring the van here and to a series of online and in-person meetings held between the contributors to *Editorial Tables* at The Showroom. The installation reflects the mobility of the Mobile Feminist Library, portraying the accumulation of materials over time. These materials constantly build up, accumulate and shift: zines, journals, books, ephemera including fliers and paper-based cataloguing systems either in-use or recently used by researchers and Librarians.

### List of works:

15. **Underneath the table:** BetterWorld Books storage boxes from the Feminist Library

16. On the table top: A collection of key materials accumulated over time and along the route of the Mobile Feminist Library.

Origami pen pots made at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, May 2016–January 2018. Gifted to and on-loan from **Joanne Vincett**.

Protest signs made throughout 2020, on-loan from **Casey Duijndam** and **Robyn Dewhurst**, organising members of BLM protests across North Wales.

17. **Library chair:** miscellaneous selection of MFL materials

18. **Wall display racks:** Zines, books, journals, newsletters, photographs, stickers, posters and ephemera from the Feminist Library and Mobile Feminist Library collections.

19. **Neon sign:** responds to a quote from **Sara Ahmed** in *Living a Feminist Life*, 2017, where she reflects upon the ways in which communities gathered around books as objects, with physical copies passing from hand-to-hand, can offer a powerful means of distributing counter-patriarchal knowledges.

## ROSE NORDIN

Artist and graphic designer **Rose Nordin** explores the publication as a site of exchange and collaboration, print technologies as tools for union and letterforms as modes of magic.

Nordin brings two projects to *Editorial Tables*, which overlap through their content and collaborations.

*STUART* is a live archiving & publishing imprint initiated by **Rose Nordin** in March 2021 with **Sepake Angiama, Priya Jay** and **Amrita Dhallu**; supported and nurtured by **iniva** (the Institute of International Visual Arts).

*STUART PAPERS, Issue Zero* collects notes on the practice of optimism of the intellect with contributions from: **Jemma Desai, Sana Badri, Abbas Zahedi, Rhea Storr, Resolve Collective, Paul Purgas, Imran Perretta, Rosa-Johan Uddoh** and **Simina Neagu**, with selected ancestral whispers collected by **Priya Jay** and **Amrita Dhallu**.

*Scorched Ceremonies*, a collaboration between Nordin, **Priya Jay** and **Heiba Lamara**, considers the significance of varied modes of ritualistic paper burning in the handling of spiritual text and image, in Southeast Asia and beyond. They explore the form-changing process of burning as a deliberate and physical practice of ritual publishing—expanding the notion of a publisher and their publics beyond the material realm.

Riso-printed paper scrolls with commissioned texts in the form of traditional Malay pantun poems act as invocations to fire; deities to offer to flames. The shadow in silver print on the adjacent poster is an offering of kindling to a ritual fire. Please feel free to take a scroll.

### List of works:

20. *Scorched Ceremonies: Published Paper Prayers*, **Rose Nordin**. Text contributions: *The Heat*, **Rose Nordin**; *The Fuel*, **Heiba Lamara**; *The Oxygen*, **Priya Jay**

21. *Scorched Ceremonies: Published paper prayers*, **Rose Nordin**  
Poster printed in an edition of 1000

22. *STUART Papers: Issue Zero*, designed and edited by **Rose Nordin**.  
Originally commissioned by **Artnight 2021** in an edition of 2000

23. *STUART flag: Archipelagos a-drift*, **Rose Nordin**. A collage of text from *STUART Papers* issue 1: *DRIFT*. Content developed with the **iniva** Research associate network *Archipelagos in Reverse* made up of: **Adjoa Armah, Cairo Clarke, Rahila Haque, Daniella Rose King, Lola Olufemi** and **Rose Nordin**.

24. *STUART nation-less anthem*. Music and sound design by **Sami El-Enany**  
Originally commissioned for *STUART papers*, **Art Night 2021 x Somerset House**

## **ELHAM RAHMATI AND VIDHA SAUMYA: NO NIIN**

NO NIIN is an independent magazine co-founded and co-edited by Helsinki-based artists **Elham Rahmati** and **Vidha Saumya**. Founded as an online platform in 2021, the magazine functions as a critical locus for discourse, aiming to provoke difficult conversations that develop over time – to ask questions that can help the artistic community grow and look at their practice from more challenging perspectives. NO NIIN opens a space for critical art writing and poetics; aiming to document, discuss and debate practices and projects by art workers situated both in Finland and internationally.

The magazine also foregrounds the conditions of production for NO NIIN as independent publishers, with a commitment to transparency through making-public budgets, fees, policies and working practices.

A new fold-out publication and poster have been produced by NO NIIN for the context of *Editorial Tables* at The Showroom. Here they bring together a compilation of text-excerpts from across the fifteen online issues of the magazine to date. Readers are invited to cross-reference between these fragments and their full texts on the NO NIIN website, where it is possible to read each in full, in the situated editorial context of the issue for which it was commissioned, where Rahmati and Saumya also write an introductory text.

A laptop offers the NO NIIN website for browsing in the space of the exhibition, alongside a video-poem first published on the artist **Nina Mufleh's** Instagram account in June 2021, and subsequently republished by NO NIIN, issue 4 online.

The first print edition of NO NIIN brings together a selected compilation of texts from across the magazine's first two years.

### **List of works:**

25. NO NIIN online magazine, 2021-present
26. NO NIIN printed magazine, Issue 1
27. Fold-out, take-away poster, first limited edition of 150, 2023
28. **Nina Mufleh**, *intersectional feminist*, Video-poem, June 2021. Four minutes, looped.
29. Poster, NO NIIN excerpts and citations, 2023