

## **Art in Context 2**

### **Exhibiting feminist photography: the work of Sandra George (1957-2013) and Franki Raffles (1955-94)**

**Jenny Brownrigg**

#### **Lecture overview and seminar plan**

#### **Short description**

This lecture will explore the ways in which a curator can engage with archival histories, in this case of two social documentary photographers who lived and worked in Edinburgh– Franki Raffles (1955-94) and Sandra George (1957-2013).

#### **Lecture overview**

This lecture will explore what Raffles and George's archives- held in St Andrews Special Collections and Craigmillar Now respectively- can tell us about their aims and methods. In assessing who they chose to photograph, and the particular time the work was made in, the lecture will look at the ongoing relevance and significance of their archival histories in contemporary art and society today. Finally, the lecture will look at how the step of exhibition making with archives can further make connections that reveal more about the photographers' ways of working.

#### **Biography**

Jenny Brownrigg is a curator and researcher and is Exhibitions Director at the Glasgow School of Art. As well as curating Sandra George (2024, Glasgow International) and *Franki Raffles: Observing Women at Work*, 2017, Reid Gallery, The Glasgow School of Art) she was the curator of *Glean: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women Filmmakers and Photographers in Scotland* 2022/23, City Art Centre, Edinburgh.

#### **Image + credit**

Credit:

Royal Blind School, Sandra George, 1980, Courtesy of Craigmillar Now

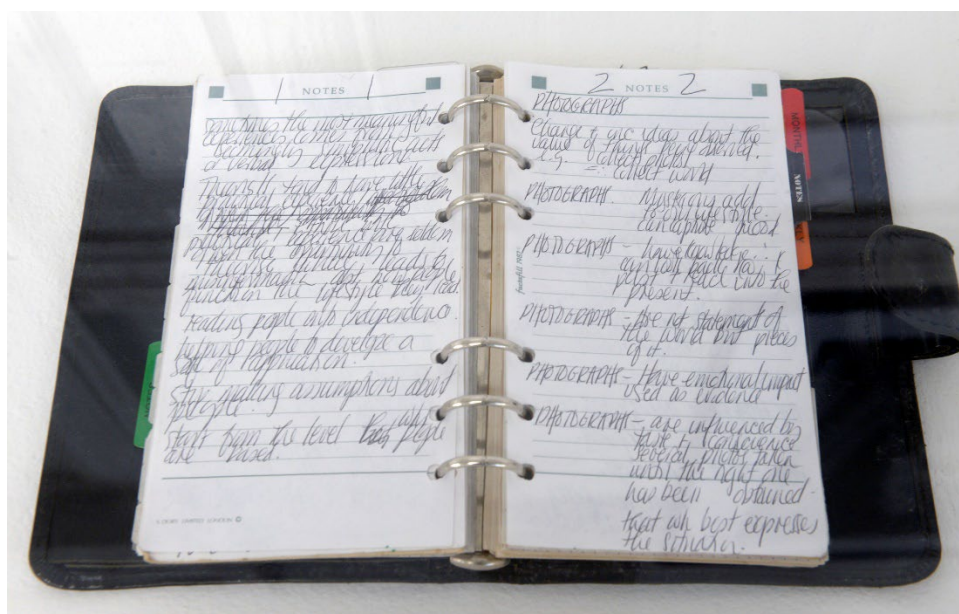


## Seminar Plan

In this seminar you will discuss Sandra George's notes on photography, that were in her address book. The artist, Christian Noelle Charles found these pages when researching in the archive at Craigmillar Now for the event she organised for Glasgow International as part of the Sandra George exhibition. Sandra's notes can be found [here](#).

Find out more about Sandra George and her Glasgow International exhibition [here](#)

Find out more about Franki Raffles [here](#)



Credit: Address book belonging to Sandra George, courtesy of Craigmillar Now  
Photo: Alan Dimmick

- **Seminar questions / prompts**

What is the importance of primary source material when looking at an artist's archive? What can it tell you?

Which phrases in her notes do you think capture Sandra George's ethos when photographing other people?

Why is her particular approach to photographing others important?

Thinking about the lecture:

What is social documentary feminist photography?

What does Raffles' and George's work tell us about a particular period of social history in Edinburgh?

Where has primary source been used in both Franki Raffles and Sandra George's exhibitions?

How have each of the photographers been sensitive to the people they have photographed?

How important was the particular context in Edinburgh in the creation of this work and how does it express the importance of community?

What are the issues in both women's work that are relevant to today?