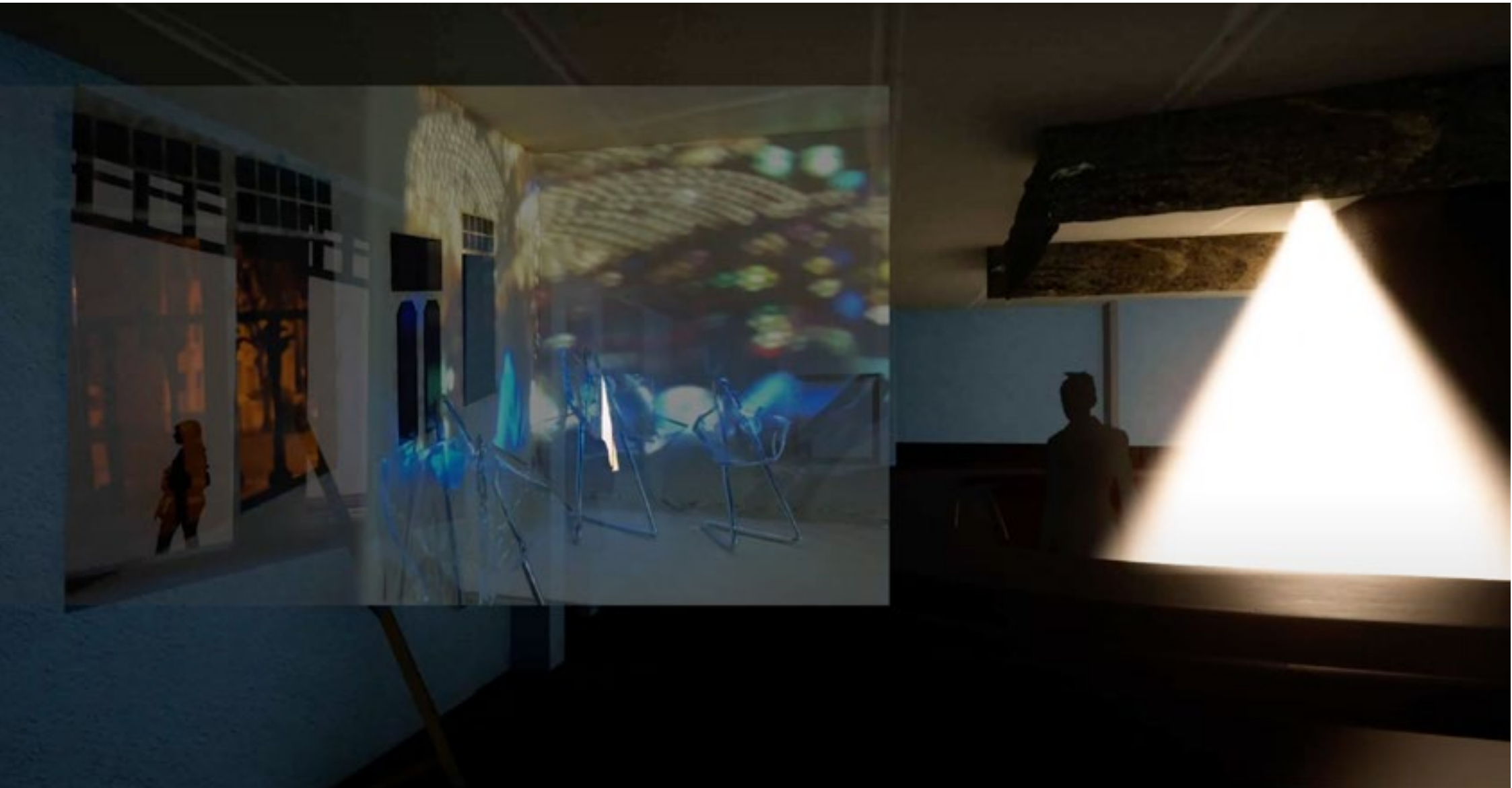


THE EXHIBITION

A VIRTUAL TOUR

This video shows the different rooms in the exhibition.
It was made using twin motion as a digital model for structure and materiality, and overlaying a physical model for lighting quality and effects.



LINK TO FILM

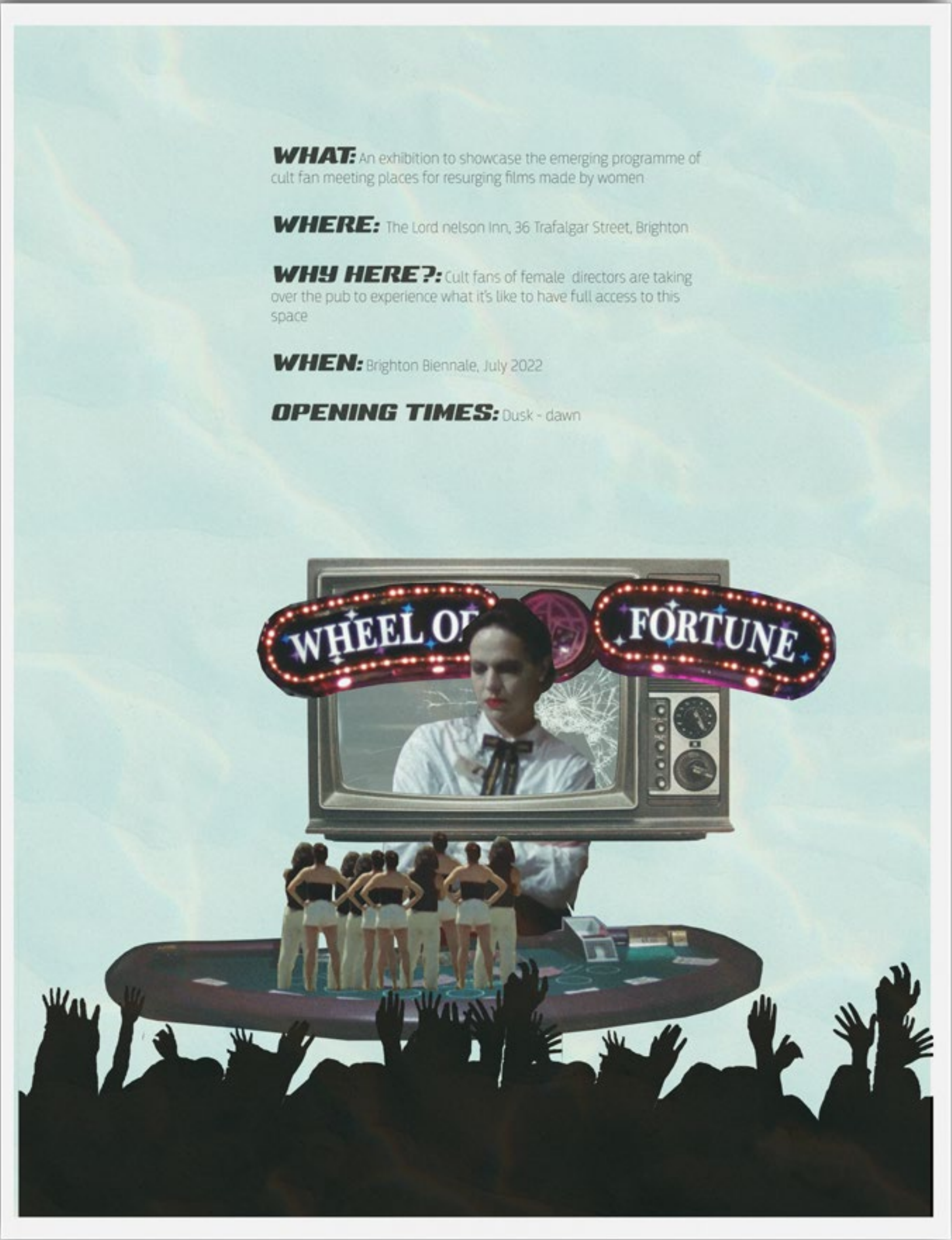


THE EMERGING PROGRAMME

With many films directed by women making a resurgence, some will become cult classics and cult fanbases will be formed. These cult fans will be inspired by the films to make a difference and will need a meeting space to discuss ideas.

THE EXHIBITION

Viewers will be taken through a series of spaces that correspond to a scene in the film, 'Queen of Diamonds' by Nina Menkes. Each of these spaces have a deeper meaning, and touch on important subjects.



CULT XX

HOLLY UPTON

Cult XX is an exhibition that reveals the emerging programme of people coming together to celebrate their passion for female directors. Films made by women have been largely overlooked, especially considering the important themes they often discuss, so the female gaze is rarely shown on screen. If films by female directors are made more accessible, people will realise their importance, and they could consequently become cult classics.

Using Queen of Diamonds by Nina Menkes as an example, an under-appreciated film from 1991, visitors will be immersed in the film, and walk in the shoes of the female protagonist.

This films is likely to become a cult film in the future, as it is currently difficult to access, but highlights themes such as feminism and anti-capitalism. The film is centred around a woman called Firdaus, who is a blackjack dealer in Las Vegas. She acts almost as the Monarch of the City of Sin, but she faces isolation as well as other issues that women face which are not often captured on screen. These topics are represented through the contrast between the garish and windowless interior of the casino where she works, compared to the vast desert which she is often captured gazing out to. In the casino, the sounds in the scene are very disorientating, and the blackjack table separates the character from the rest of the world which puts her almost under a spotlight, with many eyes landing on her.



QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, 1991, BY NINA MENKES

A TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Although women have been making films since the very beginning, they have hardly been acknowledged and it has been more difficult for women to make it in the film industry compared to men. This is due to prejudices, stereotypes, and uneven laws regarding film. These dates highlights some significant moments for women in the film industry, and the influences this has had on society, such as role models, and movements such as the Me Too movement. The future events are speculated by looking at what has occurred in the past, and what makes sense to happen in the future.

Key events for women in film

Cult films by women

Key events for cult films

Female role models created by women

Overlooked films by women

Speculated future events

1896 Alice Guy-Blaché released the first film directed by a woman "La Fée aux Choux"

1929 First woman to win an Oscar: Janet Gaynor, Best Actress, In her essay A Room of One's Own, Virginia Woolf observed about the literature of her time what the Bechdel test would later highlight in more recent fiction



1945 Homes for the People by Kay Mander

1934 to 1968 Motion Picture Production Code

1950 Outrage by Ida Lupino

1920s to 1982 Universal Studios did not credit a female director

1917-1975 Hollywood Studio Club

1952 The Happy Family by Muriel Box, The Stranger Left No Card by Wendy Toye, A Portrait of Ga by Margaret Tait

1956 Together by Lorenza Mazzetti

1969 I Am Somebody by Madeline Anderson

1970 Wanda by Barbara Loden

1972 Vincent the Dutchman by Mai Zetterling

1973 First woman to win Best Picture at the Oscars: Julia Phillips for The Sting, Year of the Woman by Sandra Hochman

1975 Hester Street by Joan Micklin Silver

1976 Mikey and Nicky by Elaine May, First woman nominated for Best Director at the Oscars: Lina Wertmüller for Seven Beauties

1978 Girlfriends by Claudia Weill

1980 Demon Lover Diary by Joel DeMott, Danny Peary first gave the term 'cult movie' currency with his 1980 book Cult Movie

1981 The Loveless by Kathryn Bigelow & Monty Montgomery, Will by Jessie Maple

1982 Losing Ground by Kathleen Collins, Slumber Party Massacre by Amy Holden Jones, The Loveless by Kathryn Bigelow, Amy Heckerling was the first director from Universal to receive credit after that period for Fast Times at Ridgemont High

1985 The rules now known as the Bechdel test first appeared in Alison Bechdel's comic strip Dykes to Watch Out For

1986 Desert Hearts by Donna Deitch

1988 Clarice M. Starling is introduced in Silence of the Lambs, Veronica Sawyer is introduced in Heathers

1989 Pet Sematary by Mary Lambert

1990 Mirror, Mirror by Marina Sargenti, An Angel at My Table by Jane Campio

1991 Queen of Diamonds by Nina Menkes, Proof by Jocelyn Moorhouse

1994 Priest by Antonia Bird, Rachel Green is introduced in Friends

1995 Welcome II the Terrordome by Ngozi Onwurah, Veronica Sawyer in introduced in Clueless

1996 Bastard Out of Carolina by Anjelica Huston, Kissed by Lynne Stopkewich, The Watermelon Woman by Cheryl Dunye

1997 Eve's Bayou by Kasi Lemmons

1999 But I'm a Cheerleader by Jamie Babbit, Hardcore fans forced the release of Two-Lane Blacktop on video, Trinity is introduced in the Matrix

2000 American Psycho by Mary Harron

2006 Tarana Burke founded the #MeToo movement

2007 S&S produced the 'Hidden Gems' issue

2010 First (and only) female winner of Oscar's Best Director: Kathryn Bigelow for The Hurt Locker

2012 Middle of Nowhere by Ava DuVernay, Katniss Everdeen is introduced in The Hunger Games

2016 Prevenge by Alice Lowe

2017 Dozens of women had accused Harvey Weinstein of rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse over a period of at least thirty years

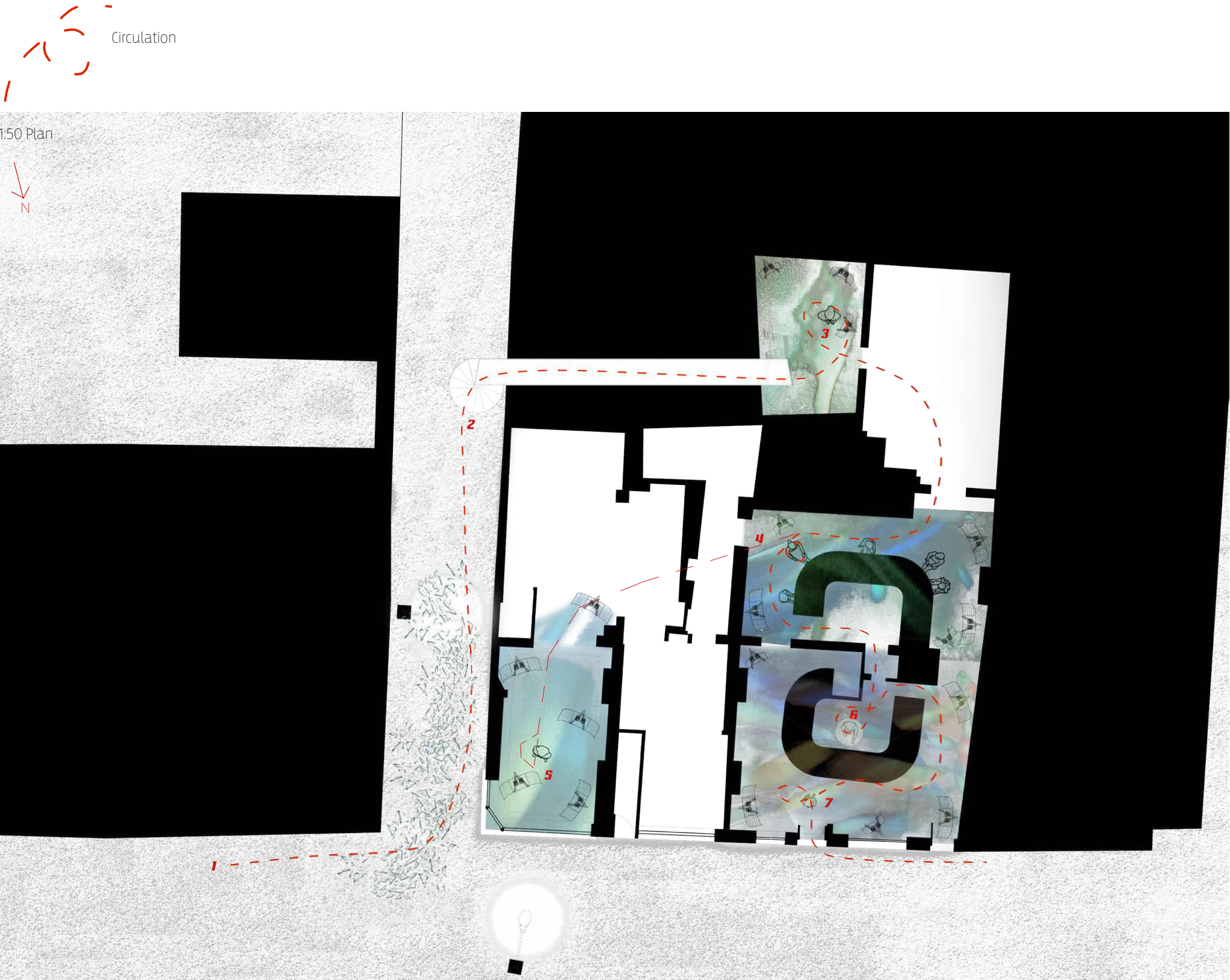
2019 The Oscars fail to nominate any female directors

2022 BFI RELEASES OLD OVERLOOKED FILMS MADE BY WOMEN

2023 CULT FILMS MADE BY WOMEN EMERGE AND BECOME MORE PROLIFIC

ORDER OF EVENTS

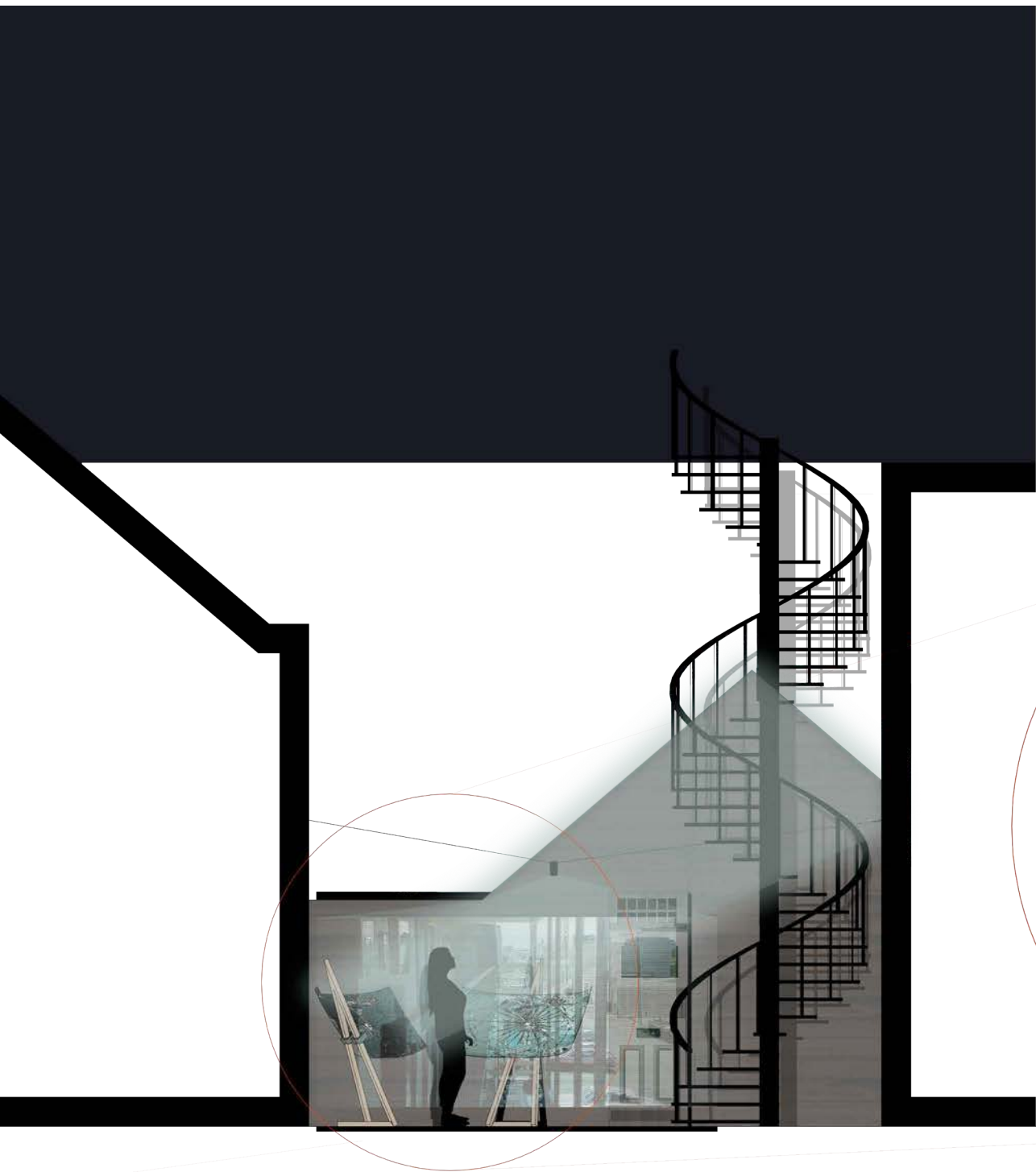
- 1 Approach- breaking into the pub
- 2 Use back entrance fire escape
- 3 Involuntary catwalk down the stairs
- 4 Space for discussion
- 5 Reflecting
- 6 Under the spotlight
- 6 Beyond the threshold



THE INVOLUNTARY CATWALK

WATCHED WITHOUT PERMISSION

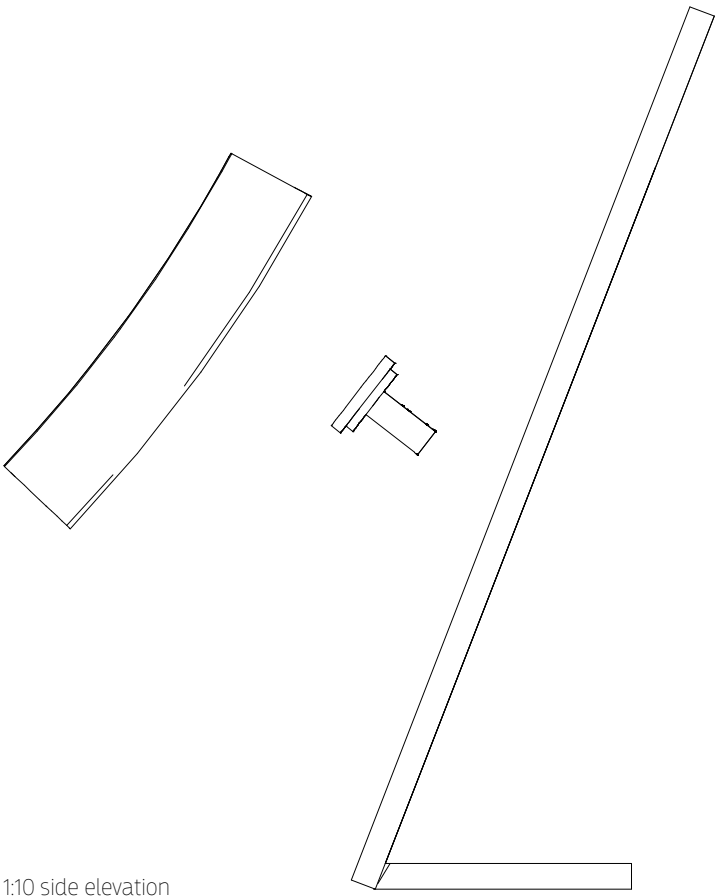
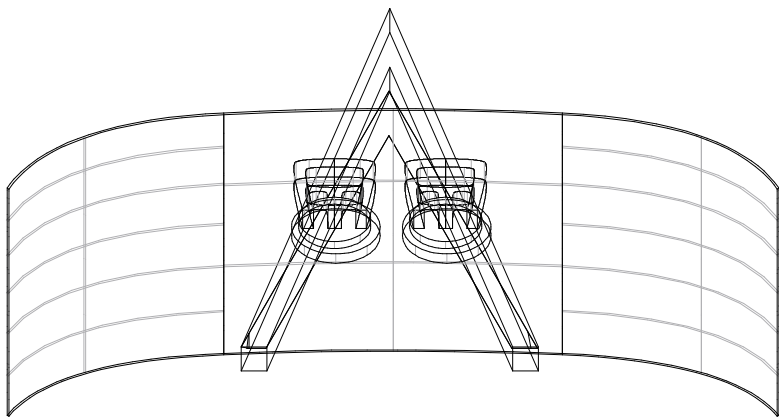
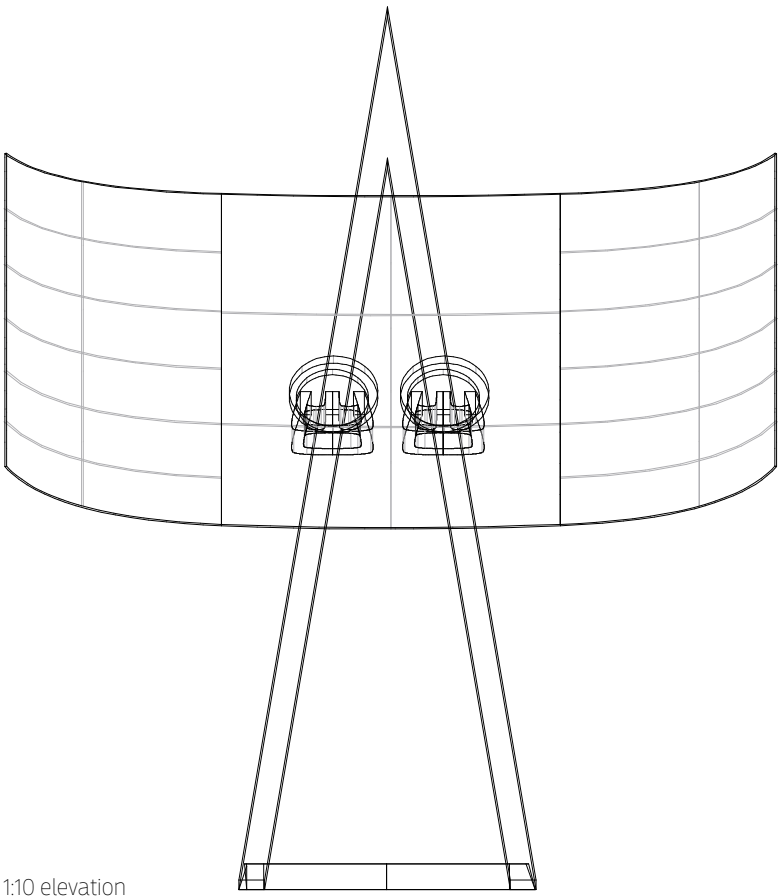
One of the spaces in the exhibition.
The visitor will walk down the stairs into the garden area, where the sounds of footsteps and a scene from the film will remind them of how many times women are watched without permission.



CORRESPONDING SCENE: The protagonist watching down the stairs of her motel where she lives, and she is watched by two men as she walks down and away.

BROKEN GLASS PANELS

This will add a layer of material to the experience, intensifying the projections and creating flashes of unexpected light



Glass:
MATERIAL: broken windshield
SOURCED: locally from scrapyards/ building sites
TRANSPORTATION: formed boxes in small van

Glass suction cup:
MATERIAL: Aluminium alloy, rubber
SOURCED: purchased from hardware shop
TRANSPORTATION: as a whole in small van

Frame
MATERIAL: timber/ metal
SOURCED: locally from scrapyards/ building sites
TRANSPORTATION: in pieces in small van

BEHIND THE SCENES THE SETUP

To film the physical model, a projector was used to project clips from Queen of Diamond across to walls to match the movement of the twin motion video. The curved pieces of glass, representing car windshields which would be used for the real exhibition, reflect the projector light and send sparks of light around the space.

